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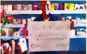

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NEWS OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS

LETTERS

It's Not About the Money

While I agree with Darwin BondGraham's base premise that environmental laws and regulations are not harmful to the general economy, there's something fundamentally wrong with the way this story was portrayed.

As comedian Bill Maher has said, why does every issue in this country boil down to money? Environmental protections are about preserving and restoring clean air and water, along with wildlife; they are not about the movement of little green pieces of paper, to paraphrase the late, great Douglas Adams.

Framing environmental protections as being about money furthers the already widely held but immoral belief that money is more important than anything else. As a longtime environmentalist of the conservationist persuasion, I am deeply offended by this attitude, because it is causing massive harm to our planet.

Money is not more important than life, human or otherwise. In fact, it is far less important. Until and unless enough people strongly and deeply believe in the primacy of all life above all else, our environment will continue to be degraded by those who focus on money above all else, whether from the left or the right.

Jeff Hoffman, Oakland

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Just what is "God centered [and] faith based" about transferring good paying government jobs with benefits, paid for by tax dollars, and converting them to low-wage jobs with no benefits and private company profits — for SMS Holdings? Tax dollars are meant for public services, not corporate profits!

John Panzer, Berkeley

Give Emeryville a Chance

Kitty's was the most obnoxious and terrible place ever. Trust me on that. By the way, E'ville (as we who live/work here like to call it) is not solely a populace of "shiny well-appointed" folks.

Perhaps your review would be better if it wasn't full of widespread assumptions coming from a person who hasn't spent any time here. In fact, you pushed the sentiment so far I wonder if you're jealous.

We locals will give Prizefighter awhile before slamming it like you just have.

Jaime Crandall, Oakland

Truth and Consequences

In all of my almost 56 years, I've been taught that if you break the rules, there is a consequence to be had. Imagine if the Occupiers went home. How much trouble would they have?

Johnny L. Th[illegible] Oakland

Change Your Tactics

The City of Oakland could save a bundle of money and have happier citizens if they just opened a vacant building for Occupy Oakland to use as a community center. When the stick doesn't work, how about a carrot?

Marilyn Barnhardt, Oakland

The Problem with Prohibition

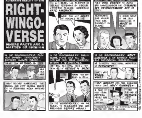
Mexican drug cartels are no doubt thrilled with the Obama administration's crackdown on voter-approved medical marijuana dispensaries. So much for change and 2008 campaign promises to respect states' rights. So much for jobs. The medical marijuana industry is one of the few job creators in the current down economy. If Obama succeeds in destroying the domestic medical marijuana industry, international drug cartels will move in to meet demand and reap the profits. This is basic economics. As long as there is demand for marijuana, there will be supply. Replacing domestic growers with organized crime groups that also sell cocaine, meth, and heroin is not a good thing. Marijuana prohibition is a gateway drug policy.

Robert Sharpe
Policy Analyst, Common Sense for Drug Policy

Corrections

Our January 25 letters section incorrectly identified letter-writer Elizabeth August as "formerly of Guerilla Grub." She is, in fact, still with the company.

And in our January 25 edition of Last Call we made several errors about The Prizefighter's drinks: Its Bee's Knees does not, in fact, use Hendrick's gin, and its sodas are made by Fever Tree, not in-house. Furthermore, the bar had been open for two months as of the publication date, not three.


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
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WHERE FACTS ARE A MATTER OF OPINION
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THEY WERE FORCED TO MAKE BAD LOANS UNDER THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT
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HAR HAR HAR
OF GEORGE W. BUSH
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PROP 8 RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

However, the Ninth Circuit's decision on gay marriage only applies to California

By Robert Gammon

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ASK HER
TO
"CIVIL
UNION"
ME

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When Berkeley residents Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier sued in federal court to overturn Proposition 8, there was strong hope that the case would ultimately lead to same-sex couples being allowed to marry in all fifty states. After all, one of Perry and Stier's main attorneys was conservative scholar Theodore Olson, who had served as the US solicitor general in the Bush administration. Olson had argued and won numerous cases in front of the conservative-leaning US Supreme Court, and the belief was that if any lawyer in the country could sway the high court on the subject of same-sex marriage, it was Olson. Olson will likely still get his chance in front of the Supremes, but after Tuesday's Ninth Circuit Court narrow ruling invalidating Prop 8, the sweeping changes that Perry, Stier, and gay-rights advocates had originally hoped for appear to be no longer possible.

Nonetheless, the Ninth Circuit's decision was still historic. It may ultimately lead to gays and lesbians being allowed to marry again in the Golden State. However, because the appellate court limited its decision to just California, the ruling will not apply to other states, and so the question of whether same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry under the US Constitution will remain unanswered for now.

In a 2-1 decision, the Ninth Circuit ruled that it only needed to address the question of whether Prop 8 was unconstitutional as applied to California. The court said that it is. California is special and unlike other states, the court said, because same-sex couples had enjoyed the right to marry here for a short time before state voters approved Prop 8. As a result, Prop 8 is unconstitutional because it singled out gays and lesbians and stripped them of a right they already had. "Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples," Justice Stephen Reinhardt wrote in the majority decision. "The Constitution simply does not allow for laws of this sort."

In a nod to where the case is likely headed next, the Ninth Circuit quoted liberally and based its decision on a US Supreme Court ruling known as *Romer*. In that case, the high court overturned a Colorado measure that said that gays and lesbians should not be protected from discrimination. The Supreme Court said that citizen-sponsored initiatives may not strip minority groups of rights they already enjoyed. Moreover, the high court said that Coloradans passed the measure likely because they disapproved of gays and lesbians. The Ninth Circuit said Californians appeared to okay Prop 8 for the same invalid reason.

The Ninth Circuit three-judge panel also concluded that the arguments made by Prop 8 supporters were without merit. Prop 8 proponents had cited the importance of child rearing as one of the main reasons for why marriage should be the exclusive right of opposite-sex couples. But the Ninth Circuit noted that before and after Prop 8 was enacted, same-sex couples were allowed to be parents and have children in California, and so the proponents' argument made no rational sense.

Prop 8 supporters are expected to appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court. In fact, the Ninth Circuit justices seemed well aware of that fact and appeared to fashion their decision — by relying on *Romer* and narrowly tailoring the ruling to California — in such a way as to not be overturned.

Komen Reverses

The Susan G. Komen foundation, a breast cancer organization that has been under siege for its decision to defund Planned Parenthood, changed its mind on Friday, saying that it decided to alter its policies. Earlier, Komen had said that it wouldn't give money to any nonprofits that were under "investigation." But on Friday, Komen said investigations would have to be criminal in nature and not political. Congressional Republicans who want to kill Planned Parenthood because it provides abortion services, had launched an investigation of Planned Parenthood, but the probe is political.

Berkeley May Defund Wells Fargo

In what could well be one of the more significant consequences of the Occupy Wall Street movement, Berkeley may become one of the first cities in the country to pull its assets out of a major bank — in this case, Wells Fargo — as a response to its role in the financial meltdown.

The city council unanimously decided to review the feasibility of transferring its $300 million or so in assets from the bank to either a local bank or a credit union, and whether an institution of that size would be able to handle the banking transactions required of a medium-size city.

Three-Dot Roundup

The Oakland City Council spared Children's Fairyland and the Oakland Zoo from budget cuts last week, but went ahead with layoffs, eliminating 105 jobs and letting 80 workers go. The council was forced to cut $28 million from the city's budget because of the elimination of redevelopment. City Administrator Deanna Santana had originally proposed to slash funding to Fairyland and the zoo, but the council avoided those cuts through a series of budget maneuvers that includes the sale of a former fire station. ... Judges issued stay-away orders to twelve Occupy Oakland protesters, telling them that they must remain at least 300 yards away from City Hall. The stay-away orders came as a result of the January 28 violent confrontation with police in which protesters broke into City Hall and vandalized it. Four of the twelve protesters are also charged with felony crimes, while the other eight are charged with misdemeanors. ... Howard Jordan is Oakland's new police chief now that Oakland Mayor Jean Quan has removed "interim" from his title. Quan and Santana also appointed Teresa Reed, an assistant fire chief in San Jose, to be Oakland's new fire chief. Reed, an Oakland resident, is the first woman to lead the department. Reed and Santana worked together in San Jose before Santana came to Oakland last year. ... The City of Berkeley has filed a lawsuit against Ken Sarachan, the owner of Rasputin Music, in order to seize the empty lot he owns at the corner of Haste and Telegraph. The city says Sarachan owes $640,000 in liens and interest. ... State water officials are worried about the meager snowpack in the Sierra as Northern California continues to experience a bone-dry winter. *The San Francisco Chronicle* reported that measurements last week showed that the snowpack was only 37 percent of normal. ... State regulators approved an opt-out program for PG&E's SmartMeters, but opponents of the controversial devices decried the move because it requires residents to pay a $75 upfront fee and a $10 monthly penalty for using the old analog meters, the *San Mercury News* reported. PG&E and California Public Utilities Commission officials defended the program, saying that SmartMeter opponents should have to pay for the cost of employing meter readers. ... The California High Speed Rail Authority used taxpayer funds to hire a lobbyist to influence legislators, the *Mercury News* reported. The authority defended the measure as a necessary expense, but even backers of high-speed rail questioned the propriety of using government money to lobby government officials. ... And the Bay Citizen, an online-only news organization, is in merger talks with the Center for Investigative Reporting in Berkeley and California Watch, the Bay Citizen reported. Former *Chronicle* Editor Phil Bronstein is expected to run the new merged news organization if it happens. The Bay Citizen has lost numerous top-level executives in recent months, in addition to the death of its founder and chief benefactor, billionaire Warren Hellman. ■

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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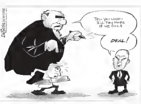
FULL DISCLOSURE

A TAX ON THE 99 PERCENT

Governor Brown's ballot measure would impact low- and middle-income families. No wonder wealthy interests are bank rolling it. Plus, a Quan recall campaign is already in debt.

By Robert Gammon


DeFreitas
TELL YOU WHAT! I'LL PAY MORE IF HE DOES
DEAL!

Governor Jerry Brown is hoping that the tax-the-rich fever sweeping the nation will propel his ballot measure to victory this November. But a closer look at his plan reveals that it doesn't just target the One Percent. It raises taxes on the 99 Percent and will impact low-income residents the hardest. The reason? The governor's plan, unlike a competing tax-the-rich ballot measure known as the Millionaire's Tax, includes an increase in the state sales tax. And sales taxes, according to many economists, affect middle- and low-income earners more than they do the wealthy.

According to the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, low-income families typically spend three-quarters of their income on things subject to sales tax. For middle-income families, it's about half of their income. But the richest families only spend a sixth of their income on sales-taxable items. It's why many economists view the sales tax as one of the most regressive forms of taxes we have.

Sales taxes also mean that low- and middle-income earners are taxed at higher rates overall than the wealthy in California. According to a 2009 analysis by the institute, the effective tax rate for the lowest 20 percent of wage earners, when including all taxes, was 10.2 percent statewide. For middle-income earners, it ranged from 8.1 to 8.7 percent. But for the wealthiest 1 percent in California, the effective tax rate was just 7.4 percent. "The sales tax violates the basic fairness principle of taxing according to one's ability to pay," the institute stated in a report on taxes last year. "Low-income families are actually made to pay a larger share of their incomes in tax than their wealthier neighbors."

Sales taxes are also unpopular. Indeed, if Brown proposed a sales tax increase on its own, it likely would lose in a landslide. According to a recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California, 69 percent of Californians oppose raising the sales tax. Opposition is also nonpartisan: 54 percent of Democrats oppose a higher sales tax, while 71 percent of independents and 74 percent of Republicans do as well.

By contrast, taxing the wealthy is a popular idea with nearly everyone: 85 percent of Democrats support doing it, as do 71 percent of independents and 52 percent of Republicans. "The challenge the governor faces with his tax initiative is that one generally popular tax increase — raising personal income taxes on the wealthy — is paired with one generally unpopular one — raising the state sales tax," Mark Baldassare, president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, said in a statement.

Another major problem for sales taxes is that they're highly volatile: they rise and fall with the economy, and thus can make a downturn even worse. During a recession, sales tax revenues plummet, forcing the state to cut back on spending, which then deepens the economic downturn as the economy shrinks overall.

Along with raising the state sales tax by one-half percent, Brown's plan calls for increasing income taxes by 1 percent on residents who make at least $250,000 annually, 1.5 percent for those who earn $300,000 to $500,000 a year, and 2 percent on incomes above $500,000. By contrast, the Millionaire's Tax, which is sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers, raises taxes by 3 percent on incomes above $1 million and by 5 percent on those above $3 million. Based on poll results, the Millionaire's Tax at this point is much more popular.

So why is Brown pushing a less popular plan that would disproportionately impact the 99 Percent and make the economy worse should the recovery sputter? The governor has said he thinks voters will ultimately support his plan because it spreads the tax burden to everyone.

But recent public records indicate that there could be another reason: Large corporations and special interests representing the One Percent appear to like the idea of raising sales taxes. As of Monday, Brown's ballot measure committee had pulled in more than $2.3 million in campaign donations in just a few weeks; many of the contributions came from large corporations, such as Occidental Petroleum ($250,000) and from wealthy special interests, including $500,000 from California hospital owners. It's hard to imagine those same interests donating to a tax proposal that only targets the One Percent.

Rick Jacobs of the Millionaire's Tax group declined to speculate on the governor's motives or those of big donors who are flocking to Brown's plan. "I think it would be wonderful if Occidental Petroleum would donate to the Millionaire's Tax," he said, noting that Occidental Chairman Ray Irani is worth millions. "What's a 5 percent tax on him versus a half-cent sales tax on those who are just getting by?"

Although Jacobs didn't want to criticize the governor and his donors in an interview for this story, he made clear his feelings about the sales tax and its apparent support from large corporations and wealthy interests in an email to supporters last week. "The 1% doesn't want to pay their fair share, so they're going to make 100% of Californians pay it for them."

Recall in the Red

Opponents of Mayor Jean Quan have questioned her budgeting and financial acumen, but one of the recall campaigns against her is already running a large deficit. The Committee to Recall Mayor Quan Now, which is headed up by former mayoral candidate Greg Harland, reported last week that it has raised only $1,800 through December 31, but had piled up $15,156.15 in outstanding debts.

Harland's committee is one of three campaigns that are circulating recall petitions against Quan. The other two — one run by Gene Hazzard of the *Oakland Post* newspaper and the other led by former city council candidate Charlie Pine — did not report having received donations or making expenditures in excess of $1,000. These two groups are depending on volunteers to gather the 20,000 signatures needed to trigger a recall election.

Harland's group, by contrast, was expected to rely on paid signature gatherers, and had said publicly that it would raise $30,000 for the effort. However, the group's fund raising appears to be off to a very slow start. According to campaign finance documents filed last week with the Oakland City Clerk's Office, Harland's group had only one contribution — $1,600 — from its treasurer, Len Raphael, a longtime Quan opponent.

In an interview, Raphael said his group did not begin to fund raise in earnest until after the city clerk finally certified its recall petition two weeks ago. Like the Hazzard and Pine petition, the Harland and Raphael petition was rejected originally by the city clerk's office because of various errors. Raphael declined to reveal how much money his group had received in recent weeks or the identities of the donors, saying it wasn't "relevant."

Meanwhile, the city clerk has turned down a challenge that Harland and Raphael's group made against the Hazzard-Pine petition. The city clerk, along with the city attorney, concluded that if the Harland-Raphael group wants to disqualify the Hazzard-Pine petition on the basis that it's defective, it will have to go to court to do it. Raphael, however, indicated that such a move was unlikely. His group has already racked up $16,656.53 in legal bills. ●

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

LEGALIZATION NATION

A WEED APPS ROUNDUP

There's been an explosive growth in smartphone app usage despite the federal finger-wagging over marijuana

By David Downs

Medical cannabis patients are increasingly turning to their smartphones to easily find deals of the day, scan dispensary menus and even schedule some dispensary-provided yoga. A tour of the Apple App Store and the Android Market reveals a rapidly advancing world of weed apps amid the crackdown by the US Department of Justice. Whether it's studying up on strains, finding a physician who specializes in the medicinal herb, staying informed, or ending prohibition, the needs of the medical cannabis industry are playing out on mobile technology.

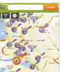
Leafly: On January 26, classy strain encyclopedia Leafly launched the free Android version of its free iPhone app, which rounds out Leafly's digital presence since the eighteen-month-old business reset the bar on site design. The Orange County company reports 1,000 app downloads a day, and 40 percent of those downloaders convert into weekly Leafly App users. In the last 30 days, iPhone users have looked at 300,000 strain reports and 50,000 photos. The site started with 50 official strain reviews and is now up to 520, plus some 2,500 less-detailed entries. More than 17,000 reviews have been posted and 2,800 strain pics have been uploaded since Leafly launched the feature.

The three coders who started Leafly have quit their day jobs, hired three more employees, and are in the process of hiring five more. The October crackdown has been the biggest hurdle for the growing company, said Scott Vickers, Leafly co-founder and developer. "It's a weird kind of time but it's exciting," he said. "The uncertainty in the market seems to have driven patients our way in search of more information."

LegalMaps (iOS)/**WeedMaps** (Android): The free mobile version of WeedMaps.com has been downloaded around 250,000 times for Android and 350,000 times on iPhone. "We get more traffic to the website through Android and iPhone than we get through just the website now," said site cofounder Justin Hartfield.

WeedMaps boasts a massive national dispensary database with menus that the company updates frequently. Travelers often use it to scout new clubs, and then review their experiences. Even with the crackdown, LegalMaps is seeing more downloads and should soon edge into the top 25 medical apps in the App Store.

Harborside Health Center: The West Coast's largest dispensary has a free app to match its stature, garnering 4.5 out of 5 stars in the Apple App Store, based on 69 reviews since its April 20 update. HHC's massive menu is on the app, but the catch here is that products sell out faster than the inventory management system can keep track of them, so don't rush down to the dispensary with one thing in mind. The app's piped-in Twitter feed is a better source for up-to-the-minute inventory.



WeedMaps for Android

Users can also check the app's Deal of the Day for specials like "Free $15 hash with $150 purchase." Harborside's robust patient services calendar is accessible as well, helping patients schedule reiki, naturopathy, yoga, and acupuncture services.

The Vapor Room: The Haight Street institution in San Francisco just overhauled its Facebook presence and partnered with The Bold Italic and Noise Pop on a pop-up shop (we've always liked their style). A sort of clone of the HHC app, The Vapor Room's free app (and eight others) are powered by San Francisco company MyDispensaryApp, a subsidiary of medical cannabis angel investor network The ArcView Group, headed by Troy Dayton, who is also the co-founder of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. Dayton tells Legalization Nation that MyDispensaryApp was created to serve Harborside, but the demand for apps surpassed the angel network and taxed its resources. "They just took off," Dayton said of the apps.

Dayton also said that MyDispensaryApp was recently acquired for an undisclosed sum by Los Angeles company StickyGuide.com, a leading dispensary profile directory with menus. StickyGuide owner Nick Miller said that even mom-and-pop shops have real-time inventory needs, much like Apple's Mac store. When clubs run out of advertised product by the time the patient arrives, it infuriates them. "The inventory is so boutique. All those products are different and in such limited supply that it adds a whole other level of urgency to it," Miller said. "So many people are checking menus every hour for new stuff and rushing down there trying to get it before it sells out."

StickyGuide intends to cut app development costs for dispensaries and improve on what MyDispensaryApp built. Planned features include online ordering, so reserving that hot strain is just a click away.

The cannabis app space is still a veritable green field for developers, Miller said, though the October crackdown "shook everyone up," he said. "It's two steps forward, one step back."

"The short term might be iffy but the long term has never been better," Dayton added.

Americans for Safe Access: "Call your Congressperson" features let the organization's iPhone and iPod apps are just the beginning of tech-enabled activism. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Conference Highlights:

Alternative banking models – public banks, worker cooperative banks, and progressive banking practices
Marc Armstrong, Public Banking Institute; Susan Harman, Public Banking Institute; Mike Leung, The Worker Coop Credit Union; Esther Park, RSF Social Finance

Alternative workplace models – saving money, energy, and promoting creativity and collaboration
Matthew Bauer, BetterWorld Telecom

B Corporation – a better way to do business
Andy Fyfe, B-Lab; Matthew Bauer, BetterWorld Telecom; Timothy Yee, Green Retirement Plans; Jonathan Storper, HansonBridgett; Mike Hannigan, Give Something Back Office Supplies

Bikenomics – how biking will save the planet, our pocketbooks, and our local economy
Renee Rivera, East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Campaign finance reform – the single most important campaign
Mark McLeod, Sustainable Business Alliance of Oakland/Berkeley; State Senator Loni Hancock

Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Arno Hesse, Bernal Bucks; Jessica Newlan, Oakland Grown Gift Card; Charlie Rohlich, Oakland Acorn; Mira Luna, BACE Time Bank

Crowdfunding for local (food) economies
Arno Hesse, Slow Money Northern California; Elizabeth U, Finance for Food; Jenny Kassan, Cutting Edge Capital; Mary Rick, The Hoop Fund

Economic development for our communities – the potential of decentralized energy systems
Al Weinrub, Local Clean Energy Alliance

Financing your small business
Jose Corona, Inner City Advisors; Kelly Lavilen, Working Solutions

How can we build a more resilient society?
Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute

Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
Comedy Troupe: W. Kamau Bell and Nato Green

Localization movement – the economic argument for keeping it local
Linda Currie, Transition Berkeley; Susan Silber, Buy Local Berkeley; Carolina Miranda, Sustainable Business Alliance; Erin Kilmer-Neel, Oakland Grown; Hut Landon, SF Locally Owned Merchants Association

New community-building tech innovation presentation by LocalOn
Shahllena Imran, LocalOn; David Tellaupov, LocalOn; Shari Godinez; Darlene Drapkin

The new sustainable theory of investing
Jay Youngdahl, East Bay Express and Harvard Fellow at the Institute for Responsible Investment; Leslie Christian, Portfolio 21 Investments

The non-profit industrial complex, cooperatives, and how to include your friends in the (food) revolution
Yoni Landau, Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive (CoFED)

State and national small business policy and opportunities discussion
Scott Hauge, Small Business California; David Bowdin, ASBC – American Sustainable Business Council

Unions is the new economy
Jay Youngdahl, East Bay Express; Carl Hall, Pacific Media Workers Guild; John Logan, SF State Management School

Visualizing a sharing economy – a cartoon guide to the policies and practices that are paving or blocking the way
Janelle Orsi, Author of The Sharing Solution and Director, Sustainable Economies Law Center and Law Offices of Janelle Orsi

When the economy's rotten, sell compost: transforming ecological crisis into community opportunities
Kirsten Schwind, Bay Localize; David Kant Welford, Bay Localize

Why Occupy changes everything and how to join with Occupy to build powerful coalitions for change
Sara Mixner, Occupy Oakland; Scott Rossle, Occupy San Francisco; Phoebe Sorgen, Occupy Berkeley; Maria Gastelumendi, Rising Loafer Cafe & Bakery

Worker cooperatives – sustainable economic development
Kasper Koczab, Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC); Dave Karoly, Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC); Jenny Kassan, Cutting Edge Capital

* Subject to change at any time

Take a free tour of the HUB from 11am – 2pm while you're at the David Brower Center. The Hub is a community of people with ideas to build a better world. It offers a shared workspace that inspires collaboration, programming that accelerates progress, and events that gather ideas and thought leaders. This is where change goes to work.

Special Acknowledgements

Bay Area Green Tours, East Bay Green Drinks, Green Chamber of Commerce, American Independent Business Alliance, Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, HUB Berkeley, City of Oakland, City of Berkeley, Rainbow Grocery, Marin Sun Farms, Institute for Environmental Entrepreneurship

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ECO WATCH

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE POOR

A new study finds that global warming likely will impact poor, urban, and minority residents the most. Plus, going green pays off for companies

By Bernice Yeung and Susanne Rust

The Shell refinery in Martinez. Wikimedia Commons

Poor, urban, and minority residents are most at risk for health problems linked to climate change, according to a new California Department of Public Health analysis of Los Angeles and Fresno counties. The department examined social and environmental factors ranging from the rising sea level to public transportation access and found that African Americans and Latinos living in these counties are more likely to be exposed to health and safety risks related to poor air quality, heat waves, flooding, and wildfires stemming from climate change.

"Clearly, climate change risks are not equal across the state or within individual counties," according to the report. "Identifying communities at greatest risk is a necessary step in efficiently employing limited resources to protect public health."

In Los Angeles County, neighborhoods near Santa Monica and Long Beach were among those deemed most vulnerable, "largely from risks due to sea level rise but also partially attributable to poor public transit, wildfire risk, and a large proportion of elderly living alone," the report said.

The study also found that there was a notable economic disparity between families living in the areas most vulnerable to climate change and those who didn't — the more at-risk families earned between 40 and 55 percent less each year than the least vulnerable families. Residents living downtown or in urban areas were also more vulnerable, the study said. A western portion of Fresno County near Mendota also was found to be especially susceptible to climate change-related safety and health problems.

Public health experts say these disparities in climate-related health risks may partially be explained by living conditions and a poor baseline status of health. "If you are low-income, you may live in a facility that is in poor repair and you can't open the windows, or you don't have air conditioning. Then you may be more at risk for heat-related activity. It's the same with the cold," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association. "The fact is that low-income communities, especially those of color, start with a health deficit. No one does well with bad air quality, but when you have poor health status, you're going to be more at risk."

Across the country, public health departments have become increasingly focused on the connection between health and climate change. The California analysis – the first to look at climate change health and safety risks at a county level — is based on a methodology developed by researchers at Occidental College in Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, and UC Berkeley, and is part of an effort to help local officials plan and identify potential policies for handling the human health impacts of climate change.

"Given that climate change presents a suite of risks and not a single risk, this is more of a planning tool for identifying which communities you should be taking some time to make sure you address," said Manuel Pastor, who directs USC's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity and advised the state health department analysis. "You look at a map like this, and you see the areas that need more support. It could inform different preventative and emergency response strategies."

A bill introduced in November by California Democratic Congresswoman Lois Capps also calls for the development of a national strategic action plan to respond to "rising health threats from climate change." Those efforts have been applauded by the American Public Health Association. "If you think about the history of public health, our history has been all about making sure that the water is safe to drink, the food is safe to eat, and the environment is safe to be in, and all of those things can be *disrupted* with climate change," Benjamin said.

But climate change skeptics say California's climate-and-health analysis is misleading and unnecessary. Richard S. Lindzen, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a prominent climate change skeptic, said the issue is often erroneously conflated with extreme weather or natural disasters. "In California, if you have extremes of warm or cold weather, it's not due to global warming. It's due to which direction the wind is blowing," Lindzen said. Public health departments are merely "coming along for the ride," he said. "As far as I can tell, the global warming impact on California health has to be immeasurable at this stage."

UC Berkeley physics professor Richard Muller, a onetime skeptic who changed his position on climate change after conducting research funded by other skeptics, said that while "there is evidence of climate change that is visible to scientists but not to the everyday person," the state public health department's analysis is of limited use. "It's certainly true that the poor people of our state are always the most vulnerable to any change whatsoever — you don't have to do an analysis to figure that out," he said. "If you want to spend money on the poor, I suspect preparing for climate change is the least effective way to do that. The poor will always need help, and I don't think it should be spent on something like a fad like climate extremes and predictions that things might get worse."

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FEB 26 10AM 6PM

The Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (www.nobawc.org) and the East Bay Express' Progressive Opportunities Conference invite 20 inquisitive minds on a guided bike tour of East Bay worker cooperatives.

We will meet on Saturday, February 25, at noon for live music, cookies, milk, and a general orientation. We will depart Nabolom Bakery at 1pm and finish the tour around 3:30pm at the Cheeseboard. Your registration fee also includes a copy of A Guide to Worker Cooperatives.

Meet up place: Nabolom Bakery, 2708 Russell Street Berkeley, CA 94705

Meet up time: Noon for live music, cookies & milk

Tour departs: 1pm from Nabolom Bakery

Tour ends: 3:30ish at Cheeseboard with pizza, of course

You must have: a bike, helmet, working lights & spare tube

You will be asked to sign a Liability Release Form; refusal to sign will disqualify you from participating in the ride.

The bike tour will obey all traffic laws. The group will be lead by two experienced riders from the Missing Link Bicycle Co-op; www.missinglink.org

Potential route includes: Missing Link Bicycle Co-op, Cheeseboard Bakery & Cheese Shop, Juice Bar Collective, Berkeley Free Clinic, Maybeck High School, Nabolom Bakery, Alchemy Coffee Collective, Biofuel Oasis, InkWorks Press, Heartwood Woodworking Cooperative, Pedal Express Bike Delivery, Quilted Tech Collective.

Meet at noon at Nabolom Bakery for a pre-tour concert with a live band band will be playing from 10am-1pm so come early and chill out Check out all the worker coops in the SF Bay Area:g.co/maps/v95sg

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The Union of Concerned Scientists disagrees. According to a 2011 study, California would experience the "biggest economic impacts and the biggest health impacts when ozone and temperatures increase" due to climate change, said Elizabeth Perera of the union's climate and energy program. That study projected that an increase in ozone pollution would result in about $729 million in related health care spending in California in 2020.

Going Green

New research shows it can pay to be green. A pair of California business school researchers has found that companies that disclose greenhouse gas emissions enjoy an immediate rise in stock value and positive returns to shareholders. "When a company makes a voluntary disclosure of this kind, it signals to the investment community that this is a firm that is environmentally responsible," Paul Griffin of UC Davis told The Daily Climate. "Investors are saying they would prefer to invest in an environmentally responsible firm."

The pair wanted to test a theory known as "voluntary disclosure." The theory predicts that certain corporate information, if disclosed publicly, will produce a benefit for shareholders. The theory also predicts that the disclosure of that information will benefit smaller companies — or companies with less information available about them — more than larger companies.

So the team, which also included Yuan Sun of UC Berkeley, went through all news wires released by Corporate Social Responsibility, a corporate news wire, between 2000 and 2010. The researchers chose this news wire for two reasons: 1) They wanted to track only companies that voluntarily disclosed their emissions (as opposed to a regulatory database), and 2) the news wire is considered the global leader in providing news about corporate social responsibility, allowing the researchers to examine a large worldwide sample.

The researchers ended up with a sample of 172 greenhouse gas disclosures for 84 companies. They then got company stock values for the day before the announcement, the day of, and the day after. The researchers also set controls by analyzing companies that did not release emissions information during that time period.

The researchers found that stock value increased when companies voluntarily disclosed their greenhouse gas emissions. They also found that the benefit for smaller companies was greater than for larger companies. The study showed smaller companies saw an average increase of 2.3 percent in share value after disclosure.

To be sure, "independent of company size or public information availability, the tests document a small but reliable positive shareholder response to a Corporate Social Responsibility newswire release," the authors wrote. The companies analyzed represented a variety of industries, including health care, information technology, and financial services. The researchers hope their data will influence companies to disclose information about their carbon impact. ●

California Watch is a project of the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting in Berkeley. Contact the authors at JYoung@CaliforniaWatch.org and SRust@CaliforniaWatch.org. For more, visit CaliforniaWatch.org.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

THIS YEAR'S MOST COMPETITIVE RACE

The contest for the 18th Assembly district features four candidates who each have a legitimate shot at winning.

By Steven Tavares

The 18th Assembly district has long been known as a "black seat" in the state legislature because the demographics of the district had historically tilted toward African-American voters living in East Oakland. For the past six years, the seat has been held by Sandré Swanson, one of the most prominent African American politicians in the Bay Area. But an historic exodus of blacks from Oakland coupled with a dramatic redistricting and a newfangled primary season has changed the demographic landscape of the district. As a result, the 16th, now known as the 18th Assembly district because of redistricting, may be one of the most competitive legislative contests in California this year.

Although the official nomination period does not start until February 13, the race already includes four major candidates: Alameda Vice Mayor Rob Bonta, Peralta Community College Trustee Abel Guillen, AC Transit board member Joel Young, and Kathy Neal, a former Port of Oakland commissioner. Each also has amassed a substantial war chest and endorsements in advance of the June 5 election.

Under California's new open primary rules, the two top vote-getters in June, regardless of party affiliation, will face off in the November general election. Many of the candidates say the new rules haven't changed how they plan to run their respective campaigns, although they concede the need to find a balance between spending in the primary and saving resources for a potential general election campaign. "Instead of one shot," Neal explained, "you get a shot at it twice. In terms of expenditures, you have to pace yourself differently in the open primary system. Ultimately, though, it's about connecting with people."

Abel Guillen

The redrawn 18th district also is no longer a shoo-in for African American candidates. In addition to Oakland losing one-quarter of its black population from 2000 to 2010, the 18th now includes a much larger portion of San Leandro. It still includes Alameda as well.

The campaign also promises to be close because the candidates are cut from a similar political cloth — all are Democrats. Each also has been well received by the East Bay's powerful labor community. But in recent weeks, no candidate has been buoyed more by labor than Guillen, who wrapped up powerhouse endorsements last week from the California Nurses Association and the California Teachers Association — two of the most well-organized and most influential unions in the state.

Kathy Neal

Guillen's base of support also appears to be expanding. According to his most recent campaign fundraising report filed late last month with the Secretary of State's Office, more than five hundred of his contributors were small donors. Guillen said that most are people who have never contributed to a campaign themselves. Because many of his donors are still well below the fundraising limit, Guillen hopes that they will open their checkbooks again in the future. "We think they will probably donate again," he said. Guillen's end-of-year report shows his campaign with a respectable $107,000 in cash on hand, strengthened by more than $66,000 in donations during the last three months of the year.

Guillen also has tapped into the message of the 99 Percent. Late last year, he won plaudits from the Occupy movement for his plan to explore the feasibility of moving the community college district's assets from large financial institutions to local credit unions and community banks. "I have a commitment to myself and my job at the Peralta Community College to try to be one of those people who talks the talk, but also delivers," Guillen said. "As an elected official, it's my job to find my role. I can't control what's in Sacramento, but I can control what we have and reinvest it."

Other local agencies and communities are picking up on the Peralta board's lead. The Berkeley City Council is contemplating a move of its assets from Wells Fargo to local institutions. Guillen said Berkeley and other public agencies, such as AC Transit, have requested information for their own initiatives. "I'm glad it's picking up steam," he said.

Rob Bonta

If Guillen's grassroots approach has begun to sow positive results, Bonta's momentum has been equally impressive. Despite being the last candidate to jump into the race, Bonta has picked up significant steam in the past few months. He outpaced his opponents in fundraising, collecting nearly $162,000 in 2011 — all of it in the last three months of the year.

A Yale graduate and former member of the US men's twenty-and-under soccer team, Bonta is viewed as the most business-friendly candidate in the race. He's also banking on picking up substantial backing in San Leandro to go with his base of support in Alameda. Bonta also believes that the new demographics of the 18th will be to his advantage. "When I ran for city council I had a broad base of support from tons of whites, Latinos, Asians and African Americans," he said. "I have a message that resonates with everyone."

Job creation is also a big part of Joel Young's platform. His website confidently blares the slogan "Jobs Here." However, another round of unflattering news coverage focused on his personal behavior has buried his message and may be prompting potential supporters to explore other candidates.

Joel Young

Although fundraising reports put Young's $171,000 cash on hand at the top of the leader board, he had a disappointing last quarter of the year, bringing in just $47,000 in donations. His opponents won't speculate on whether serious allegations made last year by a former girlfriend that he struck her in the face after she found him in bed with another woman have disrupted the flow of contributions. Bonta and Guillen, though, reported large upticks in fundraising during the fourth quarter of 2012.

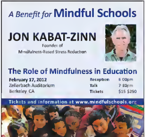
Then last month, Young was again ensnared in controversy when Jason Overman, an aide to Oakland Councilwoman Rebecca Kaplan, reported to police that Young had spat in his face and verbally threatened him during a fundraiser in downtown Oakland. Young did not return requests to be interviewed for this story, but allegations of his bad behavior have become fodder for his opponents. In January, Neal issued a statement that appeared to denounce Young, while also revealing that she was a victim of domestic violence in her early twenties. "I cannot speak to the truth of these allegations, but I can say that violence of any kind is unacceptable, especially from our elected leaders," Neal said. "Domestic violence, as has also been alleged, is even more disturbing and grave."

Most observers view Neal as the wildcard in the race. Campaign reports show her with about $30,000 in cash on hand, but Neal said she recently infused her campaign with a $60,000 personal loan. Some campaign watchers, however, say Neal's gender may prove to be an advantage in a district with changing demographics. "She's the only woman in the race," Alameda County Democratic Party Chairwoman Robin Torello said twice during a conversation at the party's pre-endorsement caucus last month. "I'm not relying on just that," said Neal. "I don't take it for granted, but I realize we share the same life experiences and that can be important."

For the most part, Neal has spent her time and energy working the back channels of Oakland politics. She had a stint as commissioner at the Port of Oakland a decade ago and currently serves on the Alameda County Central Committee.

Last year, she recounted her reasoning for running for the seat after hearing of Young's personal problems and calculating the relative inexperience of the group of candidates. "All of them are well-meaning," she said of her opponents, "but not experienced representatives. Sacramento is a mess and we need folks who know how to fix it." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHRON'S PAYWALL?

The newspaper has quietly stopped charging for stories on its website

By Rachel Swan

Two years ago the *San Francisco Chronicle*, bleeding $50 million a year in losses, grudgingly erected its first paywall. But it did so in a way that seemed a little more wishy washy than some of its peers in the news business. Whereas *The New York Times* would emerge a year later with a $15 monthly subscriber fee, the *Chron* set up a system on its website in which certain stories could only be read by subscribers of its newspaper or iPad edition or by paying customers. In the paper, the stories appeared with a "print-only" logo beside them, meaning they'd be behind the website's paywall for a few days before they would be available for free. The *Chron*'s term for its program was "premium content strategy," and it was designed to do what the name implied: sustain the newspaper's print subscriber base while growing its iPad audience.

The whole concept was based on a not-so-subtle ideal of information. Print and tablet readers were first to get the enterprise stories, restaurant reviews, profiles, Willie Brown's column, arts coverage, and other boutique stuff that had a certain high art cachet, but could also survive a two-day firewall on the website. Generally, the stories were meant to attract an older, more affluent reader, which was exactly the kind of print and tablet audience the *Chron* envisioned. The SFGate home page, meanwhile, featured celebrity scoops, breaking news, and pop culture — not for nothing were its most prominent columns called "The Daily Dish" (gossip) and "Day in Pictures" (photo gallery). These features were designed to give the publication two perfectly-packaged consumer demographics, which it could then sell to advertisers.

But over the past few months, the *Chronicle* has quietly abandoned its two-tiered system. As of Monday, the "print-only" logo still appeared in the bottom left-hand corner of the front page of the print edition, but it's seldom attached to any stories, and few, if any, are appearing behind the website paywall either. Take last Friday's paper, for example. The front page featured two enterprise stories that would have been embargoed under the old system: Peter Fimrite's piece on salmon and Carla Marinucci's feature on "waitress moms" being a crucial voter demographic. One also could argue that Ellen Huet's story on gold thievery in Siskiyou County and Wyatt Buchanan's piece on hospital unions also could have gotten the "premium content" marker.

News analysts say there are plenty of reasons why the *Chronicle* would want to revamp its business. For one thing, said media expert and former *Chron* employee Steve Outing, it no longer behooves a struggling metro paper to focus on retention strategies for its print audience, since that audience is going to leave eventually anyway. "It's a way to cling to the old model," Outing said, indicating that when you're trying to save money on overhead costs, like printing presses (or delivery people, for that matter), courting a declining readership is "not necessarily a good thing."

SUGGESTIONS
CHRONICLE
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Known in the old days for being weird, independent, and quirky, the *Chron* also has suffered a very obvious identity crisis in recent years, since it's wedged between Bay Area News Group and its stable of metro papers; The Bay Citizen, which combines news with long-form investigative journalism; a slew of blogs, several alt weeklies, and national periodicals like *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, both of which now have extensive San Francisco sections. At the same time, BANG saw a huge shift in leadership last year when its parent company, Media News Group, was taken over by Digital First Media. The founder of Digital First, John Paton, a self-proclaimed Internet "apostle," declared upon arrival that the old system was broken. No longer would your news be printed on broadsheets; it would be available to anyone with a web browser.

THE "PRINT-ONLY" LOGO STILL APPEARS IN THE BOTTOM LEFT-HAND CORNER OF PAGE ONE, BUT IT'S SELDOM ATTACHED TO ANY STORIES, AND FEW, IF ANY ARE APPEARING BEHIND THE WEBSITE PAYWALL, EITHER.

Paton took the old saw about "trading print dollars for digital dimes" (a pejorative way of saying that web ads make ten cents for every dollar of print ads) and turned it into a marketing credo. Then he instituted a new strategy: centralizing operations, aggressively pumping social networking sites, making everything available for free, and hoping web advertising would supply what was lost in print and Editor in Chief Jim Brady. Antithetical to both the *Chron* way of doing things and the paywall planned by former MediaNews Group CEO Dean Singleton, Digital First is putting pressure on other local dailies to get in step with the times.

"The world has moved really strongly toward immediacy as a value," said media analyst Ken Doctor. Brady also vehemently defends this philosophy, saying that Digital First is merely responding to market exigencies and the erosion of a traditional reader base. "You can't build a business model on what people *should* pay for," he insisted. "You should build a model on what they *will* pay for."

Yet *Chronicle* Managing Editor Stephen Proctor insists there's still value to the premium content strategy, which is why the paper hasn't abandoned it entirely. "Certain things are placed in the paper and on the iPad application, and the strategy was intended to emphasize their value," he said during a recent phone interview, in which he also denied that the *Chron* is planning to change its business model. Proctor attributed the decline of the system to several factors: first, the need to cover the Occupy movement, which took up a lot of A1 breaking news space that couldn't be embargoed; second, less pressure to underscore the value of the iPad app a year after it had gone on the market; and third, less editorial pressure on section editors to decide which stories to embargo.

"YOU CAN'T BUILD A BUSINESS MODEL ON WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD PAY FOR," INSISTED JIM BRADY, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA. "YOU SHOULD BUILD A MODEL ON WHAT THEY WILL PAY FOR."

Looking into the crystal ball, Doctor predicts that the *Chron* will eventually move toward a more aggressive, all-access paywall, similar to what *The New York Times* instituted last year. *The Times* has been largely successful, he said, garnering more than 300,000 digital subscribers in one form or another, making it profitable for the first time in years. But the *Chron* resides in a different universe than the *Times*, and it would probably have a much harder time convincing readers to pay.

What is clear, however, is that the *Chron* is looking for new ways to optimize its revenue stream. Subscription rates have gone up incrementally over the last few years — in the last few weeks alone, the cost of a Sunday through Wednesday subscription went up about 68 percent — and the *Chron* has also opted to move its East Bay bureau to cheaper digs in West Oakland and Alameda, where it can save on rent and consolidate operations. (It did the same thing with its Sacramento bureau last year.) Both moves indicate that the *Chron*, long a money-losing paper, is throwing ideas at the wall to see what sticks. ●

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YES, I'M A DOMINATRIX

NOT ONLY DO DUNGEONS THRIVE IN THE EAST BAY THEY'RE ALSO LARGELY ABOVE GROUND

BY RACHEL SWAN

In the old days — "old" meaning pre-Internet — members of the BDSM community had to find one another in newspaper personal ads, using heavily coded language. A hypothetical example: "Leggy blond trapped in body of middle-aged secretary. Really into *The Story of O*." Nowadays, bondage geeks meet on the web, do PayPal transactions, and even post "dominatrix" as a profession on their OkCupid profiles. Not to mention that some of them actually do subscribe to the term "geek." Many are even out to their friends and families.

The scene certainly isn't what it used to be, particularly in the sexually progressive Bay Area. For one thing, it's gone above ground. Although most BDSM workers still keep mum about the location of their services, they're at least easy to track on the Internet. Most reputable dungeons have websites, and some — like the long-running fetish playground Fantasy Makers — have their own e-stores and gift certificate packages. Many advertise in web portals Eros Guide, while others use local newspapers. Fetishists who want to play for free have an easy time going that route, too. A North Bay-based "daddy" who goes by the name "Big Poppa" said it's pretty easy to meet like-minded people at social events and arrange play dates on the spot. Moreover, members of the BDSM community often meet through chat forums, Facebook groups, or online dating services, where it's now okay to be up-front about your proclivities.

BDSM work still exists in a legal gray area, since state law prohibits the selling of "lewd acts" — meaning physical contact with genitals, buttocks, or breasts. But many people in the scene have found ways to circumvent the law by prohibiting sex, using coded language, and keeping their brick-and-mortar addresses under wraps. Generally, they also vet their clientele fairly thoroughly, requesting references or a hefty deposit for first-timers. ("Police aren't going to put down $350 just to make an arrest," said one domme who does, indeed, have sex with her clients.) Such precautions have enabled them to render BDSM a viable cottage industry, and by extension, a visible subculture.

That's terrific for people like Tizz (not her real name), a 23-year-old art-school dropout who entered the subculture at an opportune moment — because it's now a lot more socially acceptable, she's "out" to her mother and most of her friends. Although she says her mom only grudgingly accepted the news, her friends approved and even applauded. It turns out that with the popularity of the movie *Secretary* and Rihanna singing bubbly pop tunes about sadomasochism, dommes have garnered a certain cachet. Not only is it permissible. It's also glamorous. "Everyone I've told has said, 'That's so cool!'" Tizz recounted, green eyes shining excitedly beneath her bob haircut.

In truth, Tizz fell into her profession by accident. She saw a Craigslist ad for "pro-domme" positions at a local dungeon back in August ("pro-domme" is BDSM-speak for "professional dominant"), mulled over the idea for three weeks, and discussed it with an older friend who knew the trade. At her friend's behest, Tizz decided to go in for an interview. She was hired on the spot. Since then, she's worked nearly full-time doing everything from verbal humiliation to role-playing scenes to stuff that, in another context, might actually qualify as talk therapy. She has pretty strict rules against sex, golden or brown showers (urinating or defecating on someone), and unwanted touching in general. She says that, overall, patrons have been respectful — the dungeon has security guards to eject anyone who gets out of line. With a fair amount of a protocol in place to protect her, Tizz says she likes the work. Moreover, she's enjoyed the ostensible benefits of hanging around strong, powerful women all the time. "My self-confidence has gone through the roof."

In many ways, Tizz emblematizes the new wave of dommes to set up shop in the Bay Area, and the East Bay in particular. Contrary to the prevailing stereotypes on dominants and submissives, she's neither a rabid man-hater nor an Ice Queen, nor a poor, exploited fetish object who's constantly warding off creeps. Nor does she abide by clichés. Her closet isn't stocked with nurse outfits or secretary-like pencil skirts, or a cache of tools from Home Depot. "I have a couple of basic go-tos," Tizz said, offering an itemized list: a latex suit, six-inch heels, sexy boots, "some role-play stuff." But, she added, it's also fine to show up to work in sweats and no makeup. She's not a Mistress of Pain every day of the week. Most of the time, she's a playful, erudite, surprisingly maternal young woman. In a recent interview, she talked about contending with "the male gaze." When a homeless man approached her outside a bar on Telegraph Avenue, she called him "honey."

Tizz fits in well with the other nineteen employees at her dungeon, who range in age from eighteen to fifty (most have an easy time pretending to be younger), and represent a variety of body types, ethnicities, and backgrounds. Some have master's degrees or Ph.Ds, Tizz said. Many of them like to cook elaborate meals in the dungeon kitchen. Some have other jobs, but continue to do domme work because it can be a fairly lucrative profession — clients pay $300 an hour, on the lower end — and (surprise!) they really enjoy it.

It's not hard to see why BDSM might constitute a gratifying career choice in an area where the local sex shop has become a veritable household name, and the kink community is mainstream enough to hold storytelling events at The Uptown. In this type of environment, it's also pretty easy to go it alone and cut your own cloth, said Kitty Stryker, a 27-year-old Oakland-based domme who runs her own business via a web storefront. Billing herself as a geeky, bookish "evil cheerleader-type," she promises to tie you up and slap you, then launch a protracted discussion on comic-book artist Alan Moore. Because she's both savvy and edgily attractive, Stryker runs a pretty successful operation. She can make her own hours and choose to take long breaks if she wants.

"Obviously, the higher your prices, the less you have to work," Stryker explained matter-of-factly during a phone interview. "And it depends on what situation you want to live in. I used to live somewhere that was just a step up from a squat, and I did sessions twice a month."

Having been a dominatrix for ten years, Stryker is happy to dispel a lot of the myths that surround her work. For one thing, it's not unsafe. She screens clients carefully, either requesting multiple references, or setting up a $50-an-hour "social" meeting to plan and discuss the session. For another thing, it's not the sole territory of people who are "damaged" or too clumsy to get their desires met in real life. Stryker admits that even she harbored those misconceptions at first. "I went into it thinking, 'I'm gonna have a bunch of ugly, socially awkward people,'" she confessed with a sardonic laugh. "I think that people wish that that were true. It feels safer, doesn't it?"

> **IT'S NOT HARD TO SEE WHY BDSM MIGHT CONSTITUTE A GRATIFYING CAREER CHOICE IN AN AREA WHERE THE LOCAL SEX SHOP HAS BECOME A VERITABLE HOUSEHOLD NAME.**

In reality, most of the people who patronize Stryker's business are in their early thirties; about a quarter of them are couples, and a quarter are single women. Their reasons for hiring a domme vary widely, from being new in town, to having a very specific fantasy, and some extra disposable income. In some cases, Stryker said, they just want professional expertise.

Stryker is nervous about violating laws, and has moved her operation to the UK several times for exactly that reason. Yet she's also extremely forthcoming about who she is and what she does. Big Poppa said that with movies like *Secretary* providing a candy-coated image of BDSM for society at large, the community may eventually cease being outré, allowing its members to work with impunity.

Even so, Poppa has a love-hate relationship with *Secretary* — he hates that the title character turned out to be a cutter, and that the happy couple abandoned sadomasochism after they got married and lived happily ever after. Nonetheless, he says it's a step in the right direction. ●

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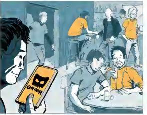

Paul Ippen

CRUISING 2.0

AT THIS POINT, GRINDR IS A FACT OF (GAY) LIFE IN THE EAST BAY AND BEYOND. HOW'S IT CHANGING SEX AND DATING?

BY ELLEN CUSHING

When the gay social-networking iPhone app Grindr — which allows men to use GPS data to find, chat with, and ideally meet up with other men — was first released in March 2009, no one quite knew what it would become. This was, after all, when location-based technology was still relatively new and when flip-phones were the norm. Even as the highly trafficked gay website Queerty heralded the obvious brilliance of the idea, it noted that the jury was still out as to whether it'd ever take off.

Fast-forward to today, when the app boasts more than two million users, with upwards of 45,000 online at any given moment. It has spread to almost two hundred countries as well as iPad, Android, BlackBerry, and iPod touch platforms. (Last year the company released a watered-down version for straight people with many of the original app's overtly venal features taken out and a more explicit focus on friendship and networking. It was, by most analyses, a failure.) But regardless, Grindr is still a force to be reckoned with. A couple weeks ago, it won for Best Location Application at TechCrunch's annual Crunchies Awards. *Vanity Fair*, the *Washington Post*, and just about every other major news outlet has covered it, and the website Celebrity even went so far as to declare it the "biggest change in gay hookups since the hanky code."

Which may not be much of an exaggeration. Statistics aside, an informal poll of about ten gay men — most of whom are single, in their twenties, and live in the Bay Area — reveals that more than three-quarters of them have at least browsed the app, though there's quite a range as to what they've done with it. One has had several sexual and romantic encounters with men from the site, while another sees it mostly as novelty and has never actually worked up the courage or energy to meet with someone. Another's been dating someone he met on Grindr for several months. Regardless, though, they all agreed that the app is practically ubiquitous in their social circles — and that has both benefits and drawbacks.

For one thing, many argue that Grindr has served to further legitimize casual sex — which can be a good or bad thing, depending on where you're coming from. Though anonymous sex has always played a role in gay life, there's something about having a popular iPhone app created for explicitly that purpose that brings the phenomenon to the fore. And especially for Grindr's core audience — the generation of gay men who came of age during and after the AIDS crisis of the Eighties, who were effectively scared out of anonymous sex by a cavalcade of PSAs, sex-ed lessons, and very special episodes — the app serves to destigmatize casual hookups. (After all, one man told me, as sleazy as it may feel, Grindr is still a self-selecting crowd by virtue of the fact that you have to have a smartphone to use it.) But in doing so, some argue that Grindr masks the dangers inherent in anonymous sex — dangers which are still very real. "I'd be more of a fan of Grindr if it also revealed that just 4,000 feet away you can get a free, anonymous HIV test at the clinic ... But, alas, I don't think this is encouraged or condoned by Grindr," said one

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At the very least, Grindr has come under the same praise — and the same criticism — that all online dating platforms do. It has made finding a potential friend, sex partner, or boyfriend infinitely easier, and it's allowed people who are turned off by the bar scene or orientation-specific events like softball teams or activity groups — or who just live in places with few gay bars — to find hookups elsewhere. "I know lots of people who aren't really clubby, who would never go to, like, Bench and Bar, and they've found guys on Grindr," observed one man. In that sense it has in a way democratized gay hookup culture. Furthermore, as one Berkeleyan noted via email, Grindr "enables men to project themselves in new ways: they choose the sexiest pictures of themselves, they choose the identifying features, and they get to define whoever they want to be via the internet. Now gay men can search for exactly who they want to sleep with — say, a young Asian twink who's into BDSM — with no problem."

But that's not necessarily a good thing. "Opening up Grindr is basically like entering a gay-themed fast food joint and taking your pick of an extra value meal," one man said. And with that comes a sort of embarrassment-of-riches-induced choosiness, or perhaps an Internet age spin on Freud's narcissism of small differences: With so many eligible bachelors lined up in front of you — a veritable torrent of available, often shirtless guys, all within a few miles — you're much more likely to make choices based on insignificant details. In other words, though relatively superficial factors like height, age, or a single look would never be a deal breaker in real life, they very well may be on Grindr. "I think I'm way more picky on Grindr than I would be in real life," said one man, "because there are just so many options. Instead of having a conversation with someone, you're saying yes or no based on a few things."

Moreover, some argue that Grindr can also be contrived, superficial, alienating, and indulgent of people who want to stay glued to their phones instead of going out into the world and meeting people. One Oaklander recalled walking into a notoriously cruisey bar — the kind of place where, ten or even five years ago, you would've been talked up immediately upon walking through the door — only to find a sea of guys fiddling with their phones in silence. (Some clubs have even introduced Grindr nights, at which patrons are encouraged, somewhat oxymoronically, to find each other through the app rather than through analog methods like, you know, talking to each other.) And on a message board, one San Franciscan noted that his gay outdoor activity group has seen steadily dropping attendance — a decrease he attributes to Grindr. "In fact I had an event one time where a few of the guys were on Grindr instead of chatting with others who were there to interact. … I was told by one guy when asked why he never shows up anymore that he doesn't need to; he has guys contact him all the time and gets a lot of sex."

It's enough to make some wonder whether sometime in the future, people will even know how to meet each other in person without having scoped each other's profiles first.

"I can't fathom a future where the majority of our encounters are mediated through this technology," said one man in an email.

Because that's the thing about extra value meals: They may be instantly gratifying, but they'll still leave you unsatisfied. "You just can't replace the electricity of meeting someone in person for the first time," he continued. "We're all more than just one picture and some slightly fudged identifying features. We deserve better than some well-designed iPhone app." ●

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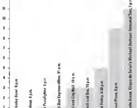

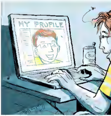

HOW TO (NOT) FIND LOVE ONLINE

HINT: AVOID SIDE-PROFILE PHOTOS. ADMIT IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET HITCHED

BY RACHEL SWAN

Online dating has become so ubiquitous that it now seems more outré to meet someone the analog way — meaning at a bar or a party. Don't believe me? Three of my friends met their sweethearts on OkCupid, and of those couples, two are now hitched.

Yet there's still a weird mystique around online dating — probably because it's a combination of two things that leave a bad taste in your mouth: cyberspam and old-fashioned matchmaking. It's curated in a way that invites high expectations. ("Some people are afraid to say, 'I want to get married' in a profile. If that's what you're looking for, say it!" says cyber-dating expert Julie Spira in one of her promotional videos.)

However, the wrong kind of profile can immediately arouse suspicion. A couple years ago, a male friend looked at my profile on OkCupid and found something wrong with every single photo I had posted. The ones I thought looked serious or pensive actually looked cruel and stern, he said; the side profiles suggested I was hiding some kind of deformity. One of them had what OkCupid blogger Christian Rudder calls a "MySpace angle" — i.e., holding a camera from a high angle in attempt to show cleavage or alter body proportions. (Interestingly, OkCupid stats indicate that a janky MySpace shot is actually one of the most effective, particularly on women's profiles.)

Men are less likely to post duplicitous photos, said a writer colleague who recently retired her dating profile, because they simply don't know what constitutes a flattering image. Thus, the ten or fifteen men she met in a year of dating online actually looked better in real life. Unfortunately, that didn't mean she felt a spark upon meeting them. I'd hasten to add that some men post photos of themselves the one time they take a shower and put on a suit.

The words you choose to describe yourself are also important. It starts with your screen name. Researchers at Nottingham Trent University in the UK found that seemingly trite descriptors — "cute," "sweetie," "fun2bwith" — ranked pretty high for both men and women; they also found, rather disconcertingly, that straight men are a lot less likely to contact a woman who advertises herself as "well educated." The website BoyMeetsBoyBlog.com argues that gay men have "perfected the art" of the screen name and cited a tried-and-true example: "hot tamb069." For the less literally-inclined, though, it helps to use a goofier proper noun. Zak Nelson, a former East Bay publicist who used to date on the website Fast Cupid, said one of the things that drew him to his wife, Angie, was her screen name: Tangelo27.

Then, of course, there's your elevator pitch. Most sites have a template to fill out. Match.com's is pretty standard, including career details, body type, activities and interests (chosen from a checklist that includes non-threatening stuff like book clubs and hiking), income, and zip code. It's reputed as the best hookup network for people who want to get married. Match's subsidiary, OkCupid, is known for being younger and hipper, and more oriented toward witty Millennials. And the profile questions reflect that. They include fill-in-the-blanks (e.g., "Message me if..."), bullet-point lists (e.g., "Five things I could never live without ..."), and "interests" sections that allow you to import directly from Facebook. They also encourage cleverness. A journalist friend who goes by screen name 22 fillmore said he got a lot of traction by posting a photo of himself wearing a pink shirt and pushing someone else's kid in a stroller. The caption read: "This is so totally not my kid. I just posted this to prove that I can rock a pink shirt, and I am hella nurturing."

Of course, the biggest difference between OkCupid and Match is that the former costs nothing, while the latter charges a subscription fee — ranging from $34.99 for one month to $16.99 per month if you commit to six months or more. (It comes with a guarantee that if you don't find love within that six-month period, you get the next six free. Oh joy.) What the price accomplishes, besides, well, generating revenue, is that it helps filter out people who are either totally broke or totally noncommittal. Free sites like OkCupid don't have that advantage, so don't be surprised if you're a single woman on the site, and some guy messages you with an extremely scrubby and/or mercenary line — e.g. "Hey, wanna buy me a drink?" Or "Hey, can you give me any advice on finding a job?" Or "Hey, I'm in a band. Do you want to write about us?" (These were actual messages I've received.)

In a recent piece on cyber-dating, *San Francisco Magazine* writer Gordy Slack bemoaned the fact that it's so hard to avoid class conflict when dating in San Francisco. It's one of the few cities where moneyed techie strivers really do constantly rub elbows with unemployed artists, so there's always that awkward moment of deciding whether to spring for a date at Delfina, or opt for a candlelit dinner at Ramen and PBR. Such tensions are less pronounced in Oakland, where a larger portion of the populace belongs in the 99 Percent. Still, there's a certain unease that comes with knowing someone's net worth before you actually meet them.

Which is why, in many senses, the old low-tech way still has a certain appeal. "I met my honey 21 years ago via *East Bay Express*, back in the days of paper-only," one woman wrote in response to a query on Twitter. "It's been a happy 21 years ..." ●

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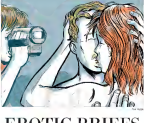

Paul Hoppe

EROTIC BRIEFS

A NEW EROTIC FILM FEST PROMISES AN EVENING OF TITILLATING ADULT CINEMA

BY CASSIE HARWOOD

The efficacy of any porn film depends upon the proclivities of the viewer. That probably explains why there are more varieties of adult movies than any one person could conceivably consume in his or her lifetime. That's also why it's hard to confine the medium to anything but the most general definition. Say: "The depiction of a sexual act intended to arouse the viewer." Trying to lump the genre into anything more specific would be an inane pursuit.

An even trickier task: trying to summarize what qualifies a film as "erotic." It's a term open to such nuanced interpretation that, in the right context, even the otherwise banal act of putting on socks could be considered as such. Case in point: When Terry Furry, the *Express*' sales and marketing director, called on submissions for BRIEFS, the paper's inaugural erotic short film competition, the entries he received ran the gamut from balloon fetishism to straight-up fucking. One entry is a brief, straightforward scene of a man and woman having sex, recorded in stop-motion. Another follows the agonized thoughts of a voyeur—the fellow transfixed by the legs of another guy's girlfriend. Then there's the loose parody of Pixar's *Up*, which, as you might imagine, involves a lot of frisky, fine-tuned balloon play. "What's erotic to me is not necessarily erotic to you," Furry said. "It could be anything from peeling an orange or an ice cube running down someone's back to blatant sex and fetishes — and that's what we've found in all our submissions."

Inspired by HUMP!, the amateur porn festival put on by Seattle-based alt-weekly *The Stranger*, Furry began preparations for the *Express*' own adult film competition in December. He wanted to see what both amateur and professional local filmmakers could come up with when charged with producing an erotic film no more than fifteen minutes long (hence the title BRIEFS, which is also a double entendre for underwear). Initially, entries were dangerously slim. But by the February 1 submission deadline he'd amassed more than a dozen films, and a diverse collection at that. "There's gay, there's lesbian, there's fetish, there's straight — it truly is reflective of the East Bay," Furry said.

The filmmakers' works screen at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, at the Grand Lake Theater (3200 Grand Ave., Oakland; $10, ages eighteen and up), where the audience, *Express* staff, and a panel of judges comprised of film buffs and experts will each pick a winner (with the favorite of each group awarded $500). And while some people might squirm at the thought of watching sex unfold in a public setting, the mix of artful and even funny flicks among more raunchy scenes of masturbation and hand jobs should relieve some of the sexual tension (though you still might not want to bring your mom). And if you're not spent after a night of erotic film watching, stop by the Uptown Nightclub (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, February 17, for BRIEFS' after-party and awards ceremony. Tourettes Without Regrets founder Jamie DeWolf hosts, with music by DJ Gravedigger and burlesque performances by Séduction Férocé and The Hot Toddies. 8 p.m.-midnight. $5. Tickets for the film fest: EastBayExpress.com/blogs/alerts. ●

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TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, VERY BAD DATES

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My Very First Date

(Note: The name of my date has been changed to protect his identity.)

I was seventeen years old, a senior in high school, and had put it off for way too long.

Stuck somewhere in between Weezer and the Misfits, I was a certifiable loser in high school and my "fuck the world/I'm so weird" state of mind certainly didn't help get me any gentleman callers. I spent much of my senior year browsing thrift stores for Little League shirts and watching reruns of Seinfeld. During school hours, I sequestered myself in the darkroom making art, or rather, developing photos of garbage and construction sites. To maximize my darkroom time, I signed up to be the teaching assistant for the graphics department, which is where I met Justin, a sophomore who decided to take graphics for his art elective and destroy my self esteem.

Stuck somewhere between an Abercrombie & Fitch bag and another Abercrombie & Fitch bag, Justin was on the high school crew team, which struck me as odd since I didn't know the high school had a crew team, and was just enough of a hottie to make me that uniquely adolescent combination of angry and uncomfortable. I was entrusted to help him with his screen printing and film-developing and time-wasting. All was good and well until one day he asked me out on a date. And, to my surprise, I said yes.

Since Justin barely had his permit, I picked him up at his house and we went for a walk on the beach. He spoke at length about the enlightening engagements of his bros and insisted I try doing a keg stand at least once in my life. It didn't take long for me to realize I had absolutely nothing in common with this person and began wondering how quickly I could get myself out of this situation. On the way back to his house, he asked if I'd like to talk for a bit longer in the car. I thought to myself that this is the part where we are supposed to make out or something. Bracing for what I thought would be the most awkward experience of my life, my first make-out session, I ended up completely unprepared for what actually happened.

He gazed in my general direction but not right at me, and I could tell he was preparing to say or do something that he didn't want to. Like taking me out on a date was some sort of charity work he could put on his college applications. Finally he asked me the question that has gone on to define my adolescent life.

"Why do you dress so weird?"

This is really happening, I thought to myself. I was speechless. What could I possibly say to this person to express the pure and total shit of the situation?

"You'd be a really pretty girl if you dressed more normal."

Years later, another boy from high school would track me down and call me a "diamond in the rough." So apparently my potential was well-known amongst the popular boys in my school. If only my wardrobe wasn't holding me back.

"I mean, my friends were making fun of me for talking to you at lunch and …"

The rest of that sentence was drowned out by the screeching of my tires.

I spent the drive back home with rethinking my entire identity. Maybe to get a boyfriend, I thought, one has to ditch the black on black on black and wear gender-appropriate tops. Maybe in order to be attractive to boys, I have to lose the eyeliner and cracker blond highlights — seemed to work pretty well for most of the other girls in my Southern California high school. Years of self doubt and insecurity had culminated into that one question said by that one boy on that one date that I didn't even want to go on to begin with.

Then I thought: fuck the world, I'm weird, and who the fuck cares.

EPILOGUE. Those high school traumas sure do find their way in and my ultimate fear of the word "date" comes from this experience. However, this story has a happy ending, and although I haven't been on many proper dates since, I sure have had a lot of great sex. Because in adult world, the whole "fuck the world/I'm weird" thing is currency. And I'm rich, baby.

Jessica Duffy Seipel, Berkeley

Don't Make Eye Contact

1) When I was in high school, I invited this girl I was really into to the first big theater performance I was in. It turns out that while I was onstage performing, she ended up making out with one of my best friends in the audience.

2) There was a random girl on the streets of Berkeley on a Saturday night who made eye contact with me. Me, trying to get over my crippling social anxiety, started a conversation with her. I ended up buying her coffee, and the fact that she was willing to talk to me and seemed even remotely interested in what I had to do made me overlook that there was something a little off with her. We end up walking down University, where the conversation shifted to food, where we end up in front of the Trader Joe's and then she proceeds to ask me point blank if I could buy her groceries. I declare, and the walk back to Shattuck turns into if I was ever given a helping hand when I was down. I say no (I lied). I bid her farewell and never see her again.

Paolo Sambrano, Oakland

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Revenge Plan Backfires

There's a little thing that I like to refer to as "The Ten-Year Revenge Plan." Among me and my friends, it's basically code for "how I'm going to fuck over my ex so that he's so psychologically broken and emotionally dead inside that he'll never be able to date or fuck or even look at anybody ever again for the rest of his life because of me." It's also commonly known as "winning," and it's a graceful art that we are all very good at.

For me, the ten-year revenge plan involved reappearing in the life of the boy I had dated for three years and hadn't seen since we broke up fifteen months ago. Until he made that ten-year revenge plan a little bit too easy for me — you know, hitting me up on Facebook and saying things like, "Nothing makes more sense to me than you." Which was, of course, my cue to commence the ten-year revenge plan.

At this point you might be wondering exactly what he did to warrant the execution of a ten-year revenge plan, but let's just say that he's my ex. That is the only thing you have to do to qualify for an attempted slaughter of your emotional stability and long-term happiness. It's just like hunting: You don't hunt the animals because you have a personal vendetta against them, you hunt them because they're animals, and they're meant to be shot and eaten. Just like exes.

So, I commenced the ten-year revenge plan by casually walking into his work one day unannounced and unexpected. Sashaying around his work, but the level of sexual tone had been cranked down to "barely imperceptible." Casual conversation, punctuated by inquisitive eye contact meant to gauge exactly how much "sense" I made to him. I left abruptly after what I would call a successful conversation.

Here, it should be noted, that a ten-year revenge plan takes a massive amount of patience. So, expectedly, it took a couple weeks before he messaged me on Facebook. But, like clockwork, he did, saying quasi-cryptic things that were meant to obscure the fact that I knew that he still wanted to fuck me. Of course, the whole wrench in the situation was the fact that, on Facebook, his relationship status stated that he had a girlfriend. And while it might sound like an oxymoron when I say I like to play fair while engaging in the ten-year revenge plan, I still had to ask right out: "Don't you have a girlfriend?" to which he oh-so-nobly responded "yes & no." Cool. What a gentleman.

On to phase 2. Time to amp it up a notch. I had devised a plan to amicably attend one of the parties he was throwing at his work. The idea was that me and my friends would show up in a whirlwind, drink all the alcohol, make a mess, cause a scene, and in a flash of "What the fuck just happened?" we would disappear back into the night just as easily as we came. I had anticipated that his current girlfriend would be there, which was all the better because some casual afternoon Facebook stalking had revealed that his current girlfriend is, um ... she's just straight up ugly. Especially compared to me, she's got no ass, no style, no lips, a pinched nose, frizzy hair and the overall look of boiled potato.

Really, the revelation that my ex was dating someone at least five steps less attractive than me (on a one to ten scale), well, this ten-year revenge plan might get cut down to two years!

All I really had to do was show up. I had scrubbed my stomach down and filled it with gin, gathered a gaggle of equally intoxicated friends and stormed in. But sometimes the ten-year revenge plan doesn't go as smoothly as you think it will. I flitted about the party, drinking wine and more wine, trying to set off an aura of casual gutter glamour as I childishly demanded he talk to me for a little bit longer than he had time to. My friends also descended down on the party like vultures to consume all the free wine that they could physically hold. All of us hit on as many people we could possibly squeeze into the proposed thirty minutes we planned on being there before heading back down into deep West Oakland for another ten hours of party-stalking and drug-chasing.

Until ... You know that hideous girlfriend I was talking about earlier? Well, it turns out that she has a drop of maturity in her, and in an "all white flags raised!" gesture of camaraderie, she wanted to talk to me. To me! Me, the ex-girlfriend who has been called "evil," "scary," and "unapproachable." (Yes, those are exact quotations, and I must admit I revel in them a bit.) But I was game, fuck it, why not, she's just some scrawny white girl, and I was wasted enough to be cocky enough to think I could pull it off. It started out as an innocuous conversation about dumb little things. But, sigh, my morbid curiosity got the best of me.

"How long have you guys been together?"

"Three years."

At which point, holy shit, did you know I can do math? Because I can, and I know that if I dumped this guy fifteen months ago and they've been together three years ... This information was the final strain of turning sneering sarcasm into a twelve-second high of pure, an out unadulterated unbearable rage. That lying piece of shit.

I guess it's important to note here that what made me mad wasn't the fact that he had cheated on me. I knew all along that he had been cheating on me, and, honestly, I wasn't too pissed about that situation. It's the lying. It's the motherfucking lying that really pisses me off at the end of the day. It's the lying, and the fact that, uggghhhhh, holy shit, if you're gonna cheat on me, can't you cheat on me with someone who's hot?

"Excuse me," I managed to get out from behind gritted teeth. And in true-to-form passion, I went up to the ex, and I'm sure you can imagine the type of shit storm that ensued. Me, in the middle of this burner-cum-graffiti artist work party, screaming, drunk and, oh dear, I'm afraid I did say some terrible things. I had descended into a blind fit of fury, blacking out my boiling blood as he dragged me outside to calm me down when I promptly burst into tears and I'm pretty sure that my overwhelming ego tried to punch him in the face several times.

There are a few snippets of that conversation that rattle woozily around my memory, most notably when I said, "I've fucked like a million people since we broke up. I even fucked a bunch of your friends." A sentence which garnered a rather pleasing tirade of, "Wait, what? Who was it? Tell me!" But my absolute favorite thing that he said was, "You know I don't love her. Of course I don't love her." Hah. Fuck your love.

Continuing, I'm sure, somewhat along those lines until he had to go back to the party he was throwing, at which point I mustered the courage to go back in and continue my high-brow level of balls-to-the-walls fuckery. I marched back in with my tear-strewn face and the only thing to do in that situation was to drink more.

I stumbled out to the back, assessed the present male population, and proudly and rather loudly "Who wants to fuck me right now?"

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I was still blind with alcohol and anger and tears, which worked out fine because it wasn't really about anything other than dragging this guy up to the office and pounding out a vengeful five-minute fuck. Putting my panties back on as I slightly stumbled down the stairs, smoothing out my tangled hair, grabbing a few bottles of wine, grabbing my friends and let's do this.

The rest of the night was pretty much a blur but I'm sure that the two-inch bruise on my ass was from when I fell down a flight of stairs at that party behind Mama Buzz. It was just another night out partying in Oakland, kinda just like every other night out partying in Oakland.

I knew I kinda fucked up that ten-year revenge plan, but that was six months ago and I am back on top of it. Maybe it's going to be a ten-year-and two-month revenge plan, what with that little setback, but I'm pretty good at this kind of stuff. Trust me, you'll be seeing his rotten, bloated corpse stumbling around this city, and when you do, you'll remember this story. I don't really want to reveal too much but let's just say I'm successfully at phase 4, which entails a casual yet intellectually stimulating friendship with the ex.

As for that dude that I fucked in the office, I don't think he understood that it was just fucking. Sorry, bro, if you thought our first "date" was awesome, but surprise, I don't even remember what you look like.

Pilar Reyes, Oakland

First Date #98

#98 was my final Internet date.

We chatted by email and over the phone a bit before meeting. I respected his life's work as a top litigator representing a cause dear to my heart. But jaded, I didn't bother to get overly excited until we actually met face-to-face.

On the date I discovered he's intelligent, interesting, not particularly funny and not at all my type, but I wanted to give him a chance. Over three hours of dinner conversation the top two hot topics that kept recurring were his ex-wife and his ex-girlfriend. From what I gathered, there was quite a bit of overlap. Dating tip for the fellas: Don't lead with your past extramarital affairs. It's not sexy to us. By the conclusion of dinner I'd learned what his favorite body parts of mine were (and neither of them happen to be my brain).

"I want to date you," he said, "but I have a feeling you're a real prude." Huh! Cue to watch the date go sideways from there.

I was strangely undaunted. He continued teasing me about my prudishness. I was kind of done with this date now. So I thanked him for the meal and said, "This prude has to go dance on a pole now."

"Where?"

"Never you mind."

"Can I come watch?"

"Only if we take separate cars. You can come, I guess. The club doesn't open for another hour and a half."

"We could go get a drink."

"Fine, but only if we can go to Aunt Charlie's."

Aunt Charlie's is this magnificent hole-in-the-wall, teeny-tiny dive bar catering to the LGBT crowd with drag queen revues on weekends. It's awesome!

I arrive after my date and he's sitting at the far end of the bar. Between the front door and my date is a group of eight to ten gay men all chatting with each other. I push my way past them and join #98 for a quick one.

He continues the berating of my character due to the prude line. And he pulls at my blouse to show me how I should wear it. If I wasn't so prudish — and if his tugging the center top falls well below my bra. Finally, I'd had it with this guy. I turn around to my crowd of boys directly behind me (decorative bra showing and all) and announce, "It's time for a poll! How many of you think I'm a prude?"

Cutie-pie boy #1 says, "Honey! In THOSE boots????? You — are not — a prude!"

The others follow suit. The committee ruled that I was not a prude. And on that high note, I stood up and said, "Thank you, my friends! Now this prude has to excuse herself. She's got to go dance on a pole at the Power Exchange."

So I'm a pole dancer. I'm great at it. I can climb, flip, spin and more. I'm better than most of the "professionals."

The Power Exchange is San Francisco's only sex club. It's open Thursday through Sunday, 9 p.m.–5 a.m. Ladies (and trannies) get in for free — men pay big bucks. It's not fair. I know.

The living room area of this club happens to be home to the Bay Area's very best pole available to the public. It's on a long, runway stage, is underlit, and has a backstage for practice. It's two stories tall — it's phenomenal. The large living room area looks a lot like the Red Devil Lounge. I like to go dance there on the occasional Thursday or Sunday, and I always go right at 9 p.m. when no one's there.

The Power Exchange has many rooms — which I have not entered. I go there to dance, and I keep my clothes on while I'm dancing — I'm a prude that way. And, as mentioned above, the pole is located in what I would call the living room. Remember keg parties in college? Kids may have been kissing in the living room, but the real action always happened in the back bedrooms (or so we see in John Hughes films).

Well ... It's like that in this club. Center stage is me on a pole, and what else we've got going on there is usually some sort of deal-making session or transaction. In other words, the living room is mostly talk, not a lot of action.

As I warm up, I do harder and harder tricks, including some new moves I've been working on. Finally, when my body's at full strength, I head down the runway and out to the center pole. I climb fifteen feet in the air and begin spinning, hanging upside down, having a blast!

About thirty minutes into dancing, I'm up in the air and I'm inadvertently looking eye level at someone in the second story seating gallery, and I realize he's caught my eye — so I quickly look away. I actually make it a point not to look at men in the club because I don't want to accidently start something I have zero intention of finishing with them. It's just protocol.

So while I'm dangling fifteen feet in the air — upside down, mind you — I divert my eyes to somewhere safe. Normally that would be down at the empty stage below me.

This time I choose to look over to my date — naked — completely naked — even his shoes and socks are off — looking up at me — and masturbating. Nice!

All I can think is: "Dude! It's the living room! I know it's allowed and all, but it's not cool!"

Eventually, I pop down off the pole, gather my bag off the stage and proceed to leave.

"What!" he calls out, cock in hand.

"Um ... no. You should stay. Have a nice time."

"Wait, you can come on over here and talk to me while I finish."

"Nope. I didn't sign up for this. I'm out. Have a good night."

Second date? What do you think?

Wendy Newman, Oakland

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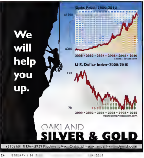
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

SEX, ADVERTISEMENTS, AND THE EAST BAY EXPRESS: OUR POSITION

From time to time we are asked about our paper's attitude toward sex and advertisements in our paper. This is a good question that deserves an answer in our Sex Issue.

Our paper is a local one. We respond to, try to serve, and sometimes hope to lead our community. We do this with hard-hitting local journalism, political commentary, long-form stories of interest, and the best reviews of culture and music. As to sex, we believe that the East Bay is a sex-positive community. We believe that people have the right to pursue their sexuality in any manner that is not exploitative of others. As an alternative paper we can discuss certain matters that may make others blanch or shy away. Recently we wrote a cover story on polyamory, one interesting sexual culture in our community. One of our most popular regular features is Dan Savage's syndicated sex column. Dan gets very graphic.

Sex is complicated. We all think about it and most of us hope to regularly participate in it, in ways that make us feel comfortable and alive. It is an understatement to say that our society is weird about sex. Much mainstream entertainment succeeds because of the titillation that comes from sexual jokes and innuendo. In fact, we are surrounded by sexual imagery while we fervently want our kids to approach sex in the right manner at the right time, even if we did not. And, may be the most problematic, sex sometimes involves power, complicating it even further.

We accept all manner of advertisements that support our twenty employees and scores of freelancers and delivery folks. We accept mainstream as well as alternative types of ads. Some of these have to do with dating and relationships, and with sex. Our standards about which advertisers we accept are consistent with our beliefs as a progressive alternative paper. We do not accept ads that we believe are exploitative. And, in all our advertisements, we work to insure that minors are not involved in activity that is illegal or immoral.

We hope this is helpful. Feel free to send us any comments or questions you have. And thank you very much for reading our paper.

Jody Colley, Publisher
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EAST BAY EXPRESS

BRIEFS

erotic shorts film competition

BRIEFS is the East Bay Express' Erotic Shorts Film Competition showcasing short works by Bay Area amateur and professional filmmakers. The one night screening will showcase the accepted filmmakers who have explored the limits of erotic entertainment while engaging attendees in a liberating experience.

Thank you for all the enticing entries for BRIEFS. We received entries from Madrid, Spain and Venice CA, but most importantly from our very own Bay Area. Entered films range from funny to fetish, from suggestive to downright nasty.

Film Screening

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ARTS & CULTURE

CULTURE SPY

THE PLACE "IT GETS BETTER" FORGOT

Two new books examine how queer and transgender prisoners get the hard end of the warden's stick.

Toshio Meronek

People who are queer and transgender — especially youth, are disproportionately represented behind bars. Eric Stanley, editor of the new anthology *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex* (published by Oakland's AK Press), has an answer as to why. "Trans and queer people, and even more so those of color and/or low-income, experience enormous barriers to formalized education and employment." Turning tricks or selling drugs are illegal — but sometimes necessary — ways to get by. "Stories of trans and queer youth being kicked out of homes and schools, ending up on the streets, and working in informal economies continue to be common," he continued. Stanley himself left home when he was fourteen.

Captive Genders is one of two new books that have been published in the last few months that look at the complicated issues surrounding gender norms, the law, and lockup. Co-edited by Nat Smith, *Captive Genders* is a collection of academic, activist, and prisoner voices speaking to the problems specific to the imprisonment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex folks. Activist-attorney-academic Dean Spade's *Normal Life* (South End Press) looks at the limits of the law in protecting the communities most at risk for abuse, particularly queer and transgender people.

Spade and Stanley, both thirtysomethings who wear stylish plastic-rimmed glasses, can't remember where they met, but they admit that queer, radical political organizing is a niche area where everyone knows everyone else, even across concrete prison walls.

"I think that we often believe that imprisoned people do not organize, and I think the California prisoner hunger strike helps to undo that assumption," said Stanley, who lives in San Francisco. At its peak last summer, the strike included some 6,600 prisoners across the state who refused food in protest to their living conditions. Among the strikers' demands: an end to the practice of administrative segregation. Ad seg, as it's known on the inside, is the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's draconian twist on solitary confinement. At Pelican Bay State Prison just south of the Oregon border, it translates into 23 hours a day, often for years, in an eight-by-ten concrete cell with no windows or interaction with other prisoners, family, or friends, according to Stanley. If you're lucky, you might get a few minutes-a-day exchange with a prison guard, but otherwise there's no human contact. (The Bay Area coalition Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity reported that Alex Machado and Johnny Owens Vick, both at Pelican Bay, and Hozel Alanzo Blanchard, a prisoner at Calipatria State Prison near the Mexican border, died after being on hunger strike for several weeks. The group interviewed prisoners nearby who said Machado called for help from prison guards for several hours before his death, but none came.)

Stanley says humor is an important weapon.

Queer and transgender prisoners are among those most often sent to ad seg, said Stanley. Facing an unusually high amount of abuse behind bars (according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, gay inmates encounter sexual assault at a rate three times that of straight prisoners; advocates say actual rates are much higher), they commonly end up there under the argument that the seclusion is for their own physical wellbeing. Mental wellbeing, not so much, says Raphael Sperry, a San Francisco-based architect who helped start a campaign to get architects to sign a pledge to turn down contracts to build prisons. "Solitary confinement's a torture chamber basically," he said. The United Nations' guru on torture, Special Rapporteur Juan Méndez, agrees. In October he testified before the UN General Assembly's Human Rights Committee calling for member countries to ban the practice except in "exceptional" circumstances — and even then, limiting it to fifteen days.

Both Spade and Stanley, who'll speak along with other *Captive Genders* contributors at a February 9 event at UC Berkeley, believe it'll take a lot more than simply reforming the system to solve the situation — rather, a total dismantling of it is what's needed.

Spade, a professor of law at Seattle University, is skeptical that the US legal structure can solve complicated problems like the ones queer and transgender prisoners face. "The idea that queer and trans people should focus our efforts on passing anti-discrimination and hate-crimes laws is misguided," he said. "They won't deliver the relief we so desperately need from homophobia and transphobia, and they often serve to legitimize or expand law systems that are actually harmful to us."

Spade views many social justice fights as connected, and points to the widening racial wealth gap and an increase in immigration laws that target people of color as proof that the system is set up with little regard for traditionally oppressed groups of people. "Anti-discrimination laws put a window dressing on these problems," he said. "They declare that US law exists to protect against oppression, meanwhile we see more and more law enforcement mechanisms developing that target oppressed people, such as Secure Communities," Homeland Security's program that turns state and local police into immigration enforcers.

Winning these battles means effecting change outside the courts, believes Spade. "I'm excited to see recent strategies like the general strike in Oakland and the West Coast port shutdowns that are glimmers of the kind of large-scale disruptive strategies that we need."

East Bay resident and former political prisoner Angela Davis blurbed both books. Davis, a professor emerita at UC Santa Cruz, is Stanley's academic adviser. She's also a lesbian, having come out publicly in an *Out Magazine* story in 1997, and is probably the most visible prison abolitionist, having co-founded the downtown Oakland-based anti-prison group Critical Resistance. Over the past couple of years, Davis has added "transphobia" to the public enemies she names in her near-daily public speaking engagements. And at a December Occupy Oakland rally, she proposed a National Occupy Day in Support of Prisoners, now set for February 20, that will include a protest outside San Quentin State Prison.

Stanley will be there. He's hoping the Occupiers will include prison abolition as one of their primary concerns as they continue to organize. His own activism has used camp sensibility as a tactic even when the causes were anything but cheery. (His camp politics are evidenced in his prison break film, a dramedy called *Criminal Queers*, co-directed with Oakland artist Chris Vargas, which comes out this summer.) According to Stanley, "Humor is an important weapon. It can denaturalize people's assumptions and make activism fun and something you want to be a part of. The right wing can have austerity. I want a politics of abundance and pleasure." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Event Details

Dean Spade and Eric Stanley, along with Ralowe Ampu, Alexander Lee, Julia Oparah (Sudbury), Michelle Potts, and Nat Smith will read from and discuss *Captive Genders* on Thursday, February 9, at UC Berkeley's Barrows Hall (Room 554), 5:30 p.m., free.

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Meat-Free Mingling

Veggie speed-dating connects vegans and vegetarians with like-minded herbivores

Brian Grupe is an affable, sharp-looking, single 27-year-old. He's also vegan. But he wasn't always that way (vegan, that is). As he described it, just four years ago he was a "beer-drinking, shit-eating" college student. That was before he was handed one of those notoriously graphic anti-meat leaflets — the type filled with pictures of overcrowded chicken coops, lacerated cattle, and other heart-wrenching images that make a person want to forego hamburgers forever. The literature led him to renounce meat — and eventually dairy — for ethical reasons. Today he even works as a regional coordinator for Vegan Outreach, the company that produced the diet-changing pamphlet.

Brian Grupe and friend

By his own account, when Grupe first went vegan, he also assumed an abrasive, alienating attitude toward meat-eaters. "I was kind of angry at the world," he admitted. "But it was making me unhappy and making people around me unhappy at times." Grupe has since relaxed his aggressive stance, and while in his "angry vegan" days he restricted his dating pool to other vegans, he said now he's more concerned with finding someone who's open-minded, regardless of what's on the other end of their fork.

Still, he found himself at an event last August built around a series of five-minute dates with twenty or so fellow vegans and vegetarians. Contrary to the images such a scenario may conjure, this was not the makings of some veggie-fueled orgy. Grupe was one of 42 singles who came to the Saturn Cafe (2175 Allston Way, Berkeley) for the debut of Veg Speed Dating, a new dating series for herbivores organized by local event planner Karine Brighten via her eco-friendly event-planning firm, Karine Brighten Events. The events follow the standard speed-dating formula, minus meat: thirty minutes of drinking and mingling followed by a handful of very brief "dates," after which participants mark off potential matches on a form. Grupe said that when Brighten — with whom he'd worked before — invited him to participate, he initially balked at the offer, but ultimately elected to give it a try.

The result: Grupe developed a purely professional relationship with the proprietor of a vegan cookie company whose products he sometimes brings to the college talks he delivers for his job. He also met one viable veggie prospect, but ceded a second date to his friend, who, he found out later, had also hit it off with her. And while Grupe didn't meet his meat-free match that evening (he said he went more for the experience, anyway), he believes that for anyone for whom meat-eating is a dating deal-breaker, such veggie-centric mixers are a boon. "It's not like there are vegan bars," he said. "And you can't just go into a vegan restaurant, randomly approach someone who's sitting down, and say, 'Hey, I'm Brian. Are you vegan?' That's weird."

The next East Bay round of Veg Speed Dating (there are two upcoming in San Francisco), geared toward heterosexual vegans and vegetarians ages 21 to 40ish, is a Valentine's Day edition held in a private room at the Saturn Cafe on Tuesday, February 14. You may or may not find your soul mate, but you'll definitely find vegan appetizers, desserts, drinks, and a raffle. 7 p.m., $30. 510-269-7252 or VegSpeedDating.com/berkeley (online RSVP required).

— Cassie Harwood

ATTRACTIONS

Humpday Happy Hour: Navigating Erotic Films Learn tips for including adult movies that both you and your partner will enjoy. Free vibrators for the first 10 attendees. Wed., Feb. 15, 5-7 p.m. free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

Oakland Walking Tour: New Era/New Politics A historical stroll through downtown Oakland to see where local African American leaders made their mark. To RSVP: 510-238-3234 or AAMLO@oaklandlibrary.org. Wed., Feb. 15, 12 p.m. free. OaklandNet.com/WalkingTours. African American Museum and Library at Oakland, 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200. OaklandLibrary.org.

Valentine's Day Celebration at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach In addition to the museum's regular attractions, come with a fancy Valentine and receive a prize. Feb. 11-12. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Footnote 510's First Anniversary Party With music by DJ Miles Green. Reception on Feb. 14 at Footnote 510 (1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) featuring light refreshments and music by DJ Daniel. Sun., Feb. 12, 5-11 p.m. Tue., Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

Funny Bunny Valentine's Day Celebration and Adoption Fair Meet and adopt rabbits, drink refreshments, and a reading of Winnie the Pooh. Sat., Feb. 11, 2-4 p.m. free. HopalotARK, 7033 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. 510-520-6155. HopalotARK.org.

Wags and Wine A family friendly Valentine's with pet vendors, food and wine tasting, adoptable dogs, canine dances, raffles, and live music. At Oakland Casual, 8430 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland; Sat., Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beth Aldrich: "Real Moms Love to Eat: How to Conduct a Love Affair with Food, Lose Weight, and Feel Fabulous" The author discusses her book about food and weight loss. Thu., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Planning for the end of Life Advanced A death education counselor discusses the end of life issues, including dying, costs, green burials, home funerals, Advanced Directives, Wills and Living Wills. Sun., Feb. 12, 3-5 p.m. $20-$30. Hotel Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3827. HillsideClub.org.

Secrets For Sales Success Life coach Maryam Moore, MA, CPCC, presents tips for focus, relaxation, and organization. To RSVP: 510-995-8730 or AwakenToLife.net. Wed., Feb. 15, 5:45-7 p.m. Emeryville Health and Wellness Center, 1340 Powell St., Emeryville.

KIDS

Lace, Lines, and Valentines A valentine-making workshop for kids. Feb. 11-12, 1-3 p.m. $8. MOCHA – Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Ann Lynn and Cynthia Chin-Lee The authors discuss their picture book, Operation Marriage, for kids ages 3-8. Sat., Feb. 11, 3 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Paws to Read Reading with dogs, for kids in grades 1-5. Call library to RSVP. Sat., Feb. 11, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2184.

Sea Squirts With Alameda's Bay-themed nature activities for kids ages 3-5. RSVP required. Tue., Feb. 14, 10:15-11:30 a.m., $3-$5. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-562-7275. EBParks.org.

Tilden Mini-Rangers With outdoor adventures for kids ages 8-13. Bring a snack. Wed., Feb. 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m. $6-$8. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Tilden Park, Berkeley. EBParks.org.

Tilden Tots An outdoor investigation of

2011–2012 SEASON

music dance theater

Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Eco Ensemble

David Milnes, conductor

Sat, Feb 11, 8 pm, Hertz Hall

In this second of three concerts spotlighting a remarkable selection of some of the most exciting, innovative musical creations from today's composers, David Milnes conducts the spectacular Eco Ensemble, Berkeley's professional new music ensemble-in-residence.

Program: Sciarrino: Ballade; Prelude; *Trios Rivieres*; Lindberg: Corrente (China version); Bedrossian: *Swing*

David Holt

Sun, Feb 12, 11 am & 3 pm, Wheeler Auditorium

Half-Price for ages 16 and under!

Songs and Stories of Appalachia

Best known for his folk music and storytelling recordings as well as his television and radio series (including *Folkways* and *Riverwalk*), four-time Grammy winner David Holt is dedicated to performing and preserving traditional American folk arts and stories. Playing 10 acoustic instruments, Holt delivers a joyful, funny, and memorable show guaranteed to please music lovers of all ages.

Ana Moura

Sat, Feb 18, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

"Her mesmeric appeal radiates from within, even if you don't know a syllable of Portuguese." —*NPR Music*

Portuguese vocalist Ana Moura has emerged as a leading voice of traditional *fado* with her captivating interpretations of fado's soulful laments. Heir to the fado. A performer of this poetic, deeply expressive idiom, the 25-year-old singer has taken the art form in new directions, collaborating with such artists as Mick Jagger and Prince.

An Evening with David Rakoff

Sun, Feb 19, 7 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Winner of the prestigious 2011 Thurber Prize for American Humor, David Rakoff's wry and heartfelt prose has established him as one of today's funniest, most insightful writers. He has penned several *New York Times* best sellers and is a favorite contributor to public radio's *This American Life*. His Berkeley appearance includes an audience Q&A and book signing.

An Evening with SNL's Seth Meyers

Tue, Feb 21, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Saturday Night Live's Seth Meyers steps out from behind the "Weekend Update" anchor desk for an evening of his incomparable humor and inside observations about the hugely popular show. An *SNL* cast member for the past seasons, Meyers is in his sixth season as head writer and is the sole "Weekend Update" anchor, charming audiences with his trademark grin as he lampoons top news stories. Meyers recently hosted ESPN's *ESPY* awards and headlined the 2011 White House Correspondents' Association Dinner to rave reviews.

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Image: Michael Cutlip, Petals, Mixed media on panel, 48" x 48", 2010. Directory of East Bay Arts 2011 cover artist

PICKS

Chocolate and Beer Festival

If you are having a tough time choosing from the slew of brew-themed events scheduled throughout the Bay Area during SF Beer Week (February 10-19), perhaps the promise of chocolate will help make up your mind. The Craneway Pavilion's (1414 Harbour Way S., Richmond) third annual Chocolate and Beer Festival on Saturday, Feb. 11, unites brewers and chocolatiers for an afternoon tasting of suds and sweets. Attendees can sample beers from locals like Trumer and Triple Rock, paired with chocolates from Galaxy Desserts, Bittersweet cafe, and others. Kids, designated drivers, and other sober sorts can opt for the less costly chocolate-only tasting. The Emperors' Jazz, Beats, and others provide live jam jams. 2-6 p.m., $15-$40, free for kids under 6. 510-215-6000 or Craneway.com *— Cassie Harwood*

Tall Ship Tour Rides and Battle Sails

Fans of 18th-century maritime warfare — and anyone impressed by really tall things — can see both spectacles at Jack London Square (2 Broadway, Oakland) starting on Friday, Feb. 10, when two tall ships, the *Lady Washington* (a reproduction of the 1750s-era ship of the same name) and the *Hawaiian Chieftain* (a steel ship fashioned after early colonial vessels) sail into Oakland for a series of walk-on tours, three-hour rides, simulated cannon battles (using real gunpowder but foregoing the cannon balls), and more. Continues Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 11-19; Tuesdays, Feb. 14-21, and Wednesday, Feb. 22. Times and RSVP requirements vary. $5-$60. 800-200-5239 or HistoricalSeaport.org. *— CH*

Oakland. animals for kids ages 3-6 (no. 1445), 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Tilden Nature Area, North end of Central Park Dr., Berkeley. 510-544-2233, EBParks.org/Parks/TNA.

Valentine's Day for Kids Search the garden for fragrant flowers to make tea and rose finger sandwiches, and make bookmarks from pressed wildflowers. Sun., Feb. 12, 10-11:30 a.m. $15-$18. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Week of Valentines @ Habitot Children's Museum With seven days of heart-themed art projects. Bring Valentine card supplies for free adult admission through Feb. 14; museum admission. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-647-1111, Habitot.org.

LGBT

Book Panel: "Queering Genders: Trans Embodiment and The Prison Industrial Complex" A panel discussion of Eric A. Stanley and Nat Smith's book, which argues that trans/queer liberation and prison abolition must be grown together. In the Barbara Christian Conference Room, room 554. Thu., Feb. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., CaptiveGenders.net. Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Community Forum: "The Occupy Movement and the Church: Is This Book Through and Awards the Dinner be a Part of It?" Religious leaders host a public forum to discuss the meaning and implications of the Occupy movement and its role and future in Oakland. At Fleet A.M.E. Church (3701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), Tue., Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-noon, free. 510-[illegible].

SALES, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Bay Nature's Awards Awards Dinner and Fundraiser With food, wine, and a presentation by wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas, in the park's Brazilian Room. Thu., Feb. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m. $125. 949-528-8550 x205. BayNature.org. Tilden Regional Park, Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-843-2137, EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

GreenCitizen E-Waste Recycling Fundraiser Recycle your computer monitors, TVs, desktop computers, monitors, batteries, and other old electronics. Proceeds benefit the Escuela Bilingüe de Berkeley. Sat., Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free. Escuela Bilingüe de Berkeley, 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley.

Occupy Totes Art With pieces by Philippe Roberts, Mark Paulle, Molly McGrath, [illegible] and Astrid Stratton-Hill. At the YMCA store. Sat., Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Heart Stella & Dot Learn about becoming a Stella & Dot jewelry stylist and running your own innovative fashion social-selling business. At Noah's Bagels (1727 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton). Sat., Feb. 11, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. 925-548-1790, MeetStellaDotPleasanton.Eventbrite.com.

Sweetheart Sale Enter to win a [illegible] in the shop and get 15 percent off. Sat., Feb. 11, 11-5 p.m. Ohjo Collections, 1800 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-356-4976, [illegible].

Valentine's Day Valentines' Appreciation Nights With complimentary chocolates and sparkling cider. Also at the new Lakeshore location (3210 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland). Feb. 10-12, 5-7 p.m., free. Sarah Ellenwood, 2564 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8087. [illegible].

SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Screening and Social Join the Thereminists for a screening of the [illegible] with a spread of locally grown food. Sat., Feb. 11, 4:30-7 p.m. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900, BrowerCenter.org.

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the film club for screenings of Kodak, Super 8, and 16mm movies and shorts. This week: *Brief Encounter* (1945). Meets at 2022 Blake St., Berkeley. Sun., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Free. BerkeleyUndergroundFilm.blogspot.com.

For the Love of Mamma A Mamma's Day-themed celebration with [illegible] African drumming, [illegible], dinner, drinks, a silent auction, and information about programs. E-mail [illegible] to RSVP. Fri., Feb. 10, 7 p.m., $20. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

Ubuntu Awards Dinner Presented by Priority Africa Network to recognize individuals who have made valuable contributions to Africa. With a keynote speech by Third World Network Africa's Dr. Yao Graham. Sat., Feb. 11, 510-883-2255, PriorityAfrica.org. [illegible] 1800 Peralta St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. TheTerraceRoom.com.

Valentine's Day Love Mission With simulated space missions, chocolates, fizzy beverages, and s'mores. Sun., Feb. 12, 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. register beforehand. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Valentine's Day Singles Party With appetizers and a mixer game for adults of all ages. Dress to impress. At Crogan's at Montclair Village (6101 LaSalle Ave., Oakland). Tue., Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m., $40. 415-507-8902, ThePartyHotline.com

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Bicycle Road Safety Class The East Bay Bicycle Coalition presents a day of workshops on bicycle handling skills, emergency maneuvers, and road conditions and safety. Functional bike and helmet required. Sat., Feb. 11, 12-3 p.m., free. 510-845-7433, EBBC.org. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

I Love Shorebirds A Valentine's Day-themed bird watch. Binoculars available for loan. Call 510-544-3187 for more information. Tue., Feb. 14, 7:30-9 a.m. Free. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-7273, EBParks.org.

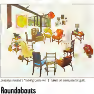
The Mystery League A co-ed sports league for ages 18 and up, with a surprise sport played each week. Five games total, with the season's most popular sport played for the playoff game. Call to register. Fridays, 7-10 p.m. Continues through Mar. 2. $20 per person, $125 per team. 510-524-9283, AlbanyCA.org/Adult-Sports. University Village, 1125 Jackson St., Albany.

New Year's Hiker Walk Rain or shine. Bring a snack to share. Sun., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free. Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-544-3187, EBParks.org/Parks/Sibley.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors vs. Phoenix Suns. Sun., Feb. 12, 6 p.m. $8-$1,200. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com. **vs. Houston Rockets.** Mon., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. $4-$1,200. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com. **vs. Minnesota Timberwolves.** Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. $4-$1,200. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com. ●

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Jessalyn Aaland's "Talking Circle No. 1" takes on consumerist guilt.

Roundabouts

Three shows worth circumnavigating.

In the Ring features boxing memorabilia from the collection of Sacramento boxer Duke Cahill (1920-2003), who inherited a previous collection started by Sacramento fight promoter Fred Lavan. Cahill was also a merchant seaman, art collector, restaurateur, contractor, folk artist — and maybe gambler. The collection, once displayed in his colorfully named restaurants — e.g., the Dog House Grill, Big M, and The Circus Tent, in Sacramento and Elk Grove — is now exhibited, thanks to its current owner, John Favors. Those who see "the sweet science" as brutal should stay away; those who went the distance with *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *Rocky*, and *Cinderella Man*, however, will want to dance around photos of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Jake LaMotta, Rocky Marciano, and Max Baer (father of the actor), who fought the German Max Schmeling in 1933 with a Star of David affixed to his trunks. *Raging Bull* screens on Saturday, February 11, 4:30 p.m. Through February 18 at Studio Quercus (385 26th St., Oakland), 510-452-4670 or StudioQuercus.com.

For a kinder, gentler alternative to ring fellowship and Bowl rowdiness, Jean Sanchirico's *Embracing the Landscape*, a show of panoramic chalk pastels depicting rolling hills dotted with trees, is infused with quiet emotion. The lyrical and almost abstract forms play nicely against the modulated segment scrubbed into silkscreened paper substrates in "Briones Path 1 (Panorama 6)," "San Antonio 2, Petaluma (Panorama 11)," and "Tilden Path (Panorama 15)." Through February 19 at Garage Gallery (3110 Wheeler St., Berkeley), 510-893-8800 or BerkeleyOutlet.com.

Jessalyn Aaland and Paul Morgan join forces for *Of Course Not*, featuring their separate works, collages and prints, respectively, and a collaborative installation. Aaland takes on consumerist glut, a worthy target, but somewhat overexposed these days; she does right by it, however, and to Dada's subversion through-collage tradition: strength through joyful mockery. Aaland creates landscapes — almost dumpsites, in some cases — of images from old magazines and books depicting various consumables and durable goods, our capitalist cornucopia of "necessaries" that Karl Marx never dreamed of; these goodies are interspersed with stickers for jewel-like pizzazz. Aaland's careful placement of objects according to size and perspective makes synthetic images like "In Amongst It," "Trying to Reach the Point of Largest Growth," and her two "Talking Circle" pieces believable, despite their obvious artifice. Morgan explores his interest in pattern in abstract geometric silkscreen prints that grow from the center outwards, organically, like crystals. His titles — "Crazy Guitar Solo," "I'm Lichen This," and "Isn't Life a Blast?" — give his free-form Op a humorous kick. Through February 26 at Swarm Gallery (560 2nd St., Oakland), 510-839-2787 or SwarmGallery.com.

— DeWitt Cheng

ART GALLERIES

Bedford Gallery: SNAP! A National Juried Exhibition of Photography With works by 81 artists from around the country, based on three themes: Our Land, Our World, Our People; Narrative, Portrait, and Conceptual; Abstract. Through Feb. 19. **Brett Weston: 1950-1980: Land, Figure, Abstract** With historic artworks spanning three decades by renowned American photographer Brett Weston. On display in the Atrium Gallery. Through Feb. 19. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Betti Ono Gallery and Shop: Loss and Mammoths With new drawings, paintings, installations, and limited edition prints by Joshua Mays. Through Feb. 28. 1814 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-473-0395. BettiOno.com.

Cal State East Bay Arts and Education Building: Annual Candidates of Fine Arts Exhibition With works by 15 candidates for a Masters of Fine Arts degree, including Laura Cone, Bethany Gorman, Adriana Gonzalez Farfan, Ray Hernandez, Kenneth Hung, Jacquelyn Meyer, Patrice McCabe and more. Through Feb. 18. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. (510) 885-3050.

David Brower Center: All the Rest Is Garden: Land Art in the Post-Agrarian Landscape An evening with artist Fernando García-Dory. Presented with The Art, Technology, and Culture Colloquium of the Berkeley Center for New Media. Mon., Feb. 13, 7-8 p.m. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

Dewitt Gallery and Framing: Glass Artist [illegible] The Point Richmond Art Collective's first show of 2012 features works in blown and fused glass. Through Feb. 11. 121 Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-778-1480. DewittGalleryandFraming.com.

Feelmore510: In Form A photography exhibit examining the natural beauty of the body through positive depictions of [illegible]. Feb. 12-29. 1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-891-0108. Feelmore510.com.

Firehouse North: Art Show in Memory of Doug Russo With painted drawings by the late artist, along with works by members of the Firehouse life drawing group, which Russo initiated in the final year of his life. Feb. 10-29. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. FirehouseArtCollective.blogspot.com.

The Float Center: Slate It Through, off with their Heads With mixed media by Ian Carroll Tafoe and functional art by Jeff Reed. Through Feb. 18. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

[illegible] Gallery: Glass Not Enough With new screenprints, preparatory drawings, and a painting by Sawyer, whose exhibition attempts a visual retrospective of the entire universe. Through Feb. 28. **Never Get Through** With new screenprints, preparatory drawings, and a painting by Gallery, whose exhibition attempts a visual representation of the entire universe. Through Feb. 29. 5851 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-923-1524. [illegible].com.

Garage Gallery: Embracing the Landscape With chalk and pastel works paying homage to early 20th Century California landscape art by Jean Sanchirico. Through Feb. 19. 3110 Wheeler St., Berkeley. 510-841-4119. BerkeleyOutlet.com/pages/garage-gallery.html.

Gray Loft Gallery: The Love State The new gallery's inaugural show featuring hand-formed photographs, paintings, monoprints, and sculpture by 20 artists. Feb. 17-25. 2889 Ford St., Oakland. 510-499-3445.

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter: [illegible] With recent paintings by Judy [illegible]. Through Feb. 29. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-817-5700. MTC.ca.gov.

Joyce Gordon Gallery: Slate Bradford: A Retrospective An overview exhibition of the artist's charcoal drawings, which [illegible] "strong positive concepts." Through Feb. 25. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.Wordpress.com.

Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden: Landscape to Abstract With paintings by Carrie Rosenfeld from Steve Lukasevic. Through Feb. 29. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. JuliasTea.com.

Krowswork: The SFBay: A Mediamorphology An exhibition collaboration by Sonja Hinrichsen and Chris Treggiari featuring a sculptural installation, multiple-video projections, audio collages, and two-dimensional works addressing the geo-photological history of the Bay. Through Feb. 11. Krowswork.com/mediamorphology.

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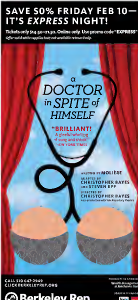

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PICKS

Spaces of Life

The [illegible] and PowerPoint [illegible] of conceptual artist Sonya Rapoport are again on view this time at Mills College. In the psychoanalytic "Objects on My Dresser" she considers the 29 objects deposited on her dresser over two decades and the associations they provided. [illegible] Last Supper Dresser/Spiritual, for example, yields the enigmatic "Sea Snakes/Slithery [illegible] Psycho-Aesthetic Dynamic" is a finer-mounted web of images divided into sectors by icons — labeled Hand, Chart, Eye, Masking, Threading, and Moving — accompanied by objects and collages mounted on surrounding walls. Rapoport's PowerPoint pieces combine Lichtenstein Pop paintings, A-bomb terminology in English and Russian, and visual snapshots of her nuclear family; pieces on the famous hybrids Jocko and Benedetto muse on the social construction of gender identity; others treat historical misogyny. Don't miss the pamphlet by curators Terri Cohn and Anuradha Vikram. *Spaces of Life* runs through March 11 at Mills College Art Museum (5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland). 510-430-2164 or MCAM.Mills.edu — *DeWitt Cheng*

A view of Sonya Rapoport's psychoanalytic "Objects on My Dresser."

DeWitt Cheng

Space, Time, and Architecture

In [illegible] the [illegible] lar and critic Sigfried Giedion wrote *Space, Time and Architecture*, a now-classic multi-disciplinary analysis of architecture and city planning. Luca Antonucci and Cybele Lyle see architectural history and space as, respectively, a dead zone and a "place of permissions." Antonucci obscures the book's 881 pages, transforming it into "an object that represents the knowledge it fails to hold onto [illegible] and perhaps meaningless to him, a failed attempt to define space. (Doesn't all sculpture or architecture supposedly do that, with varying degrees of success?) Lyle creates handsome digital collages similar to architectural or theatrical renderings she sees them as "queer, safe, architectural, and emotional," forming a mirror of reality in which all forms of intimacy are allowed to be visible. Artist talk with cookies and beer on February 18, 2-4 p.m. *Space Time and Architecture* runs through February 26 at Royal NoneSuch Gallery (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 415-652-1603 or RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com — *D.C.*

[illegible] 480 23rd St., Oakland.
[illegible] Frames + Art. [illegible] Rock [illegible] + Print Show [illegible] screenprinted art, gig posters, show prints, tees, hats, and more by the Artists [illegible] poster artists. Through Feb. 11. 412 22nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]
MacArthur B Arthur. Hybrid Narrative: Mask Meditations of the Self and Imagined Self A group show featuring multi-media installation and video work by artists [illegible] Cordova, [illegible] Moulton, Liz [illegible], and Chris [illegible]. Through Feb. 26. 4008 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. MacArthurBArthur.com.
[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] and [illegible] With collage and assemblage by [illegible] and recent work by [illegible]. Through Feb. 26. 473 25th St., Oakland. [illegible]Gallery.com.
Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible] A Miscellany of [illegible] Works [illegible] by Berkeley artist Mary Curtis [illegible] spanning the feminist spirituality movement of the 1970s to her pilgrimage to Malta in 2001. Through Feb. 11. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7785. Mercury20Gallery.com.
Paramount [illegible] [illegible]. Through Feb. 29. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. [illegible]
PHOTO. [illegible] Oakland. Through Feb. 18. [illegible] 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. PhotoGalleryOakland.com.
[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With [illegible] and black-and-white photographs featuring the power of [illegible] outdoor play by [illegible]. Through Feb. 18. [illegible]

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more SF art events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

St., Berkeley.
Pro Arts Gallery. Courage Pro Arts' members' exhibition features works by more than fifty artists. Through Feb. 17. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.
[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Wall Sculptures. With wall sculptures composed of found household objects by Shelley Gardner. Through Feb. 25. 5409 College Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Royal NoneSuch Gallery. Space, Time, and Architecture With works concerned with the definition of space as both an entity, a relationship between present and a conceptual framework" by Luca Antonucci and Cybele Lyle. Through Feb. 26. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-652-1603. RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com.
San Pablo Art Gallery. Inside Out II With paintings, prints, and mixed media by Vicky Ethan and Anthony Prieto, investigating the geometric [illegible] of their local landscapes. Through Feb. 12. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.
SLATE contemporary. Winter/Glass With paintings by Jane Horling, and photography by Michele Holhar. Through Feb. 25. Artists' Talk: Painter Jane Horling and photographer Michele Holhar present and talk about their work in WATER/COLOR. Oakland, on display at SLATE, Sat., Feb. 11, 3-5 p.m. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. SlateArtAndDesign.com.
Studio Quercus. In the Ring With [illegible] boxing photographs from the collection of the late [illegible] and footage from legendary [illegible] produced by the Studio Quercus [illegible]. Through Feb. 18. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. StudioQuercus.com.
[illegible] Studios + Gallery. [illegible] Out A duo exhibition by [illegible] Aalund and Paul Morgan, with detailed prints along with collages of spaces and spaces constructed from present and found paper materials. Through Feb. 18. 560 2nd St., Oakland.

510-879-2787. SwarmGallery.com.
[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With site-specific installations and process drawings by [illegible]. Through Feb. 18. **Between Wind and Water** [illegible] exhibition features site-specific installations and process drawings. Through Feb. 18. 471 25th St., Oakland.
Worth Ryder Gallery. Introductions: 2012 Art Department First Year MFA Exhibition With works across media by Dru Anderson, [illegible], and Sean Talley. Through Feb. 11.
Zoe's Gardens. [illegible] A show of mixed-media work by [illegible] artists. Through Feb. 27. 580 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-838-0124. [illegible]

MUSEUMS

Cal State East Bay Library. The Courage to Remember With forty [illegible], on loan from the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, examining four parts of the Holocaust in Europe: the rise of Nazi Germany, devising the Final Solution, the annihilation of the Jews and others, and the liberation from the Nazis. Through Feb. 16. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3612.
Moffitt Undergraduate Library. From present: [illegible] The Language Collections of the University Library An exhibit highlighting the linguistic diversity of the UC Berkeley Library's collections, with a display of a reproduction of the Codex Fernandez [illegible] cookbook, and more. Through Feb. 17. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-768-7089. Berkeley.edu.
Oakland Museum of California. [illegible] A display of giclee prints inspired by the graphic designer's childhood memories of Chinese traditional ink and brush paintings created by her mother and grandfather. Through Feb. 20. museum admission. **1991, Oakland-Berkeley Fire Aftermath** With [illegible] displays photographs by Bay Area photographer Richard Misrach, who present into the fire zone to document the firestorm's destruction. Through Feb. 12.

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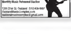

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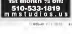

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Mic Fresh Sat., Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m., $37.50-$67.50. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Comic Joe Entertains A Valentine's Day comedy show. Tu., Feb. 14, 8 p.m., $60-$75. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Friday Night Comedy Weekly comedy hosted by LaRoy Stanfield Jr. Fridays, 8 p.m. [illegible]Productions.com. Jones Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Bada Boom With JB Comedy, CI Presents and John D'Souza. Hosted by Joe Klocek and Dave Thomason. Fri., Feb. 10, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2020. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Jam House (at the Waterfront Hotel) and Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Marga's Funny Mondays Weekly comedy and variety showcase featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by local comedian Marga Gomez. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Showcase Boomed Valentine's Issue With improv comedy in a three-party [illegible] and more. Sat., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., $15-$20. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159, ShattuckDownLow.com.

Oakland Comedy Jams and Open-Mic Hosted by [illegible] and Hasani Jeffries, with DJ MCQ. Second Thursday of every month, 8 p.m., $5-$10. Club [illegible], 130 12th St., Oakland, 510-763-0404.

Open Mic Berkeley A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland, 510-872-6813, ContinentalComedy.com.

Open Mic Comedy Showcase With about "mute for 'V'" comedy. Hosted by LaRoy Stanfield Jr. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., $5-$10. Jones Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Rhythmix Comedy Jam With [illegible] Mike Mingaloni and others. Second Friday of every month, 8 p.m., $15-$20. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Rodger Improv With Aurora The Theatre [illegible]. Hosted by Joe Klocek and Colleen [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2020. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Jam House (at the Waterfront Hotel) and Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

***Say What?* Comedy Improv Show** With Awkward Pace. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-738-1641. PanTheater.com.

Sunday Night Stutters and Poetry Hosted by LaRoy Stanfield Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible]Productions.com. Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-2025, IslandParadiseClub.com.

Bytron Productions Presents Kobaby Night Thursdays, 8 p.m., $10. Vibes, 201 Broadway, Oakland, 510-452-5610.

Thanksgiving at Comedy off Broadway This week, The Adult Show, with Mike Jones, [illegible] Jason Rogers, [illegible] Nguyen, and [illegible]. Hosted by Joe Klocek. Thu., Feb. 9, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2020, ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Jam House (at the Waterfront Hotel) and Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

The House Story Comedy improv [illegible] Awkward Pace. Saturdays, 9 p.m., $20. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-738-1641. PanTheater.com.

LIVE VARIETY

Sideshow Bee Folsom Valentine's Day Cabaret A burlesque cabaret variety show hosted by Jamie and Sissy Deloff. With music by DJ Gravedigger and performances by Ruby Sylvan, Frankie [illegible], [illegible] Moss, [illegible] and many more. [illegible] Tuesday of every month, 9:00 p.m., $8. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 19 Grand Ave., Oakland. EraOakland.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Oedipus Robert [illegible] House's contemporary [illegible] about sex, mathematics, romance, and landscape architecture. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 12, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 18. $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5580.

Arms and the Man Nancy Carlin directs George Bernard Shaw's romantic comedy in which romance goes awry. Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 25, 2:30 & 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 26. $38-$48. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-7469, LesherArtsCenter.org.

Barry "Diamond" Honky The *Law & Order: SVU* and *Grey's Anatomy* actor performs his play [illegible] John and Annemarie the history of [illegible] in theater and cinema. Fri., Feb. 10, 8 p.m., $10-$20. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-6031.

Berkeley Repertory Council Teen Council A day-long conference for teens to improve theatre arts, with theatrical games, [illegible] on Council [illegible]-making, and free admission to a performance of *Ghost Light*. [illegible] Sun., Feb. 12, 10 a.m., free. BerkeleyRep.org/School/TeenCouncil_ClassRoomArts.asp. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Body Awareness Joy Carlin directs the Bay Area premiere of Annie Baker's comedy about the dilemmas of relationships and the instability of people in times of uncertainty. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Mar. 18. $30-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Broadway Bound [illegible] Meyer directs Neil Simon's autobiographical coming-of-age comedy [illegible] Brighton [illegible] journey to become professional comedy writers. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 26. $15. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Counter Attack! Stagebridge Theatre Company's premiere [illegible] production based on the experience of the aging career [illegible] adapted from Candace [illegible]'s book *Counter Culture: The American Coffee Shop Waitress*. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Mar. 4. $10-$35. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/[illegible]. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-444-4755, Stagebridge.org.

Fences Gene Kalvana directs August Wilson's exploration of race [illegible] in 1950s America. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Thu., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 19. $15-$22. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553.

Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune Scott Fryer directs Terrence McNally's bittersweet comedy based on an unlikely romance between two middle-aged [illegible]. Repertory Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 11. $10-$30. [illegible] Theatre, 1549 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible].

Ghost Light Jonathan Moscone directs Tony Taccone's world-premiere production, based on the assassination of Mayor George Moscone. No performances on [illegible], call or check theater to verify. Sundays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Thu., Feb. 16, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 19. $14.50-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Henry IV [illegible] a staged reading of Shakespeare's play with music by John Fabre and John Montgomery. Tue., Feb. 14, 8 p.m., $10-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5580.

Improv Alive: Sun Yat-sen and the Three People's Principles Performer Charlie [illegible] enacts the story of Sun Yat-sen's life in America before he returned to China as the first provisional President of the Republic of China. Sun., Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m., museum admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change Matthew [illegible] Miller directs a Pinole Community Players production of the [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 11. $10-$25. Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole, 510-724-9844, PinolePlayers.org.

Improv of Actors Theatre A one-night [illegible] performance series, featuring The Spotlight People and The S Ready improvisers, with music by [illegible] and Joey House, and more. Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 12. $5-$10. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5580.

In a Jiffy A staged reading of Lauren Yee's play [illegible] overcoming what [illegible] you. Followed by a preview discussion about [illegible] based on the work. One of four [illegible] for the [illegible] Project. Mon., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., free. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Inseat Inseat Light Cal Shakes Theater a networking event for theater lovers ages 21-40 with dinner and drinks at Jupiter; a meet and greet with Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathan Moscone; and a [illegible] of *Ghost Light* at Berkeley Rep. Thu., Feb. 16, 5:30-10:30 p.m., $15. bit.ly/CalShakesGhostLight. Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277, JupiterBeer.com.

Jesus in India The Magic Theatre of San Francisco and Laney College Theatre present the premiere of Lloyd Suh's play "a contemporary parable, imagining Jesus in the lost years of Jesus Christ." Sat., Feb. 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. [illegible] MagicTheatre.org/about/oakland. Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3308.

The Light in the Piazza [illegible] musical about a young American [illegible] who falls for a young Italian [illegible] her [illegible]. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m. Continues through Mar. 3. $36-$38. Willows Theatre, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord, 925-798-1300, WillowsTheatre.org.

Ragtime The Youth Musical Theatre Company presents a musical drama, based on E.L. Doctorow's novel, set in the exciting part of New York at the dawn of the 20th century. Starting Feb. 10. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 12, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 18. $12-$16. YMTCBerkeley.org. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

The Skriker Ed [illegible] directs a DVC production of Caryl Churchill's eerie modern drama about two teenage girls' encounters with a shape-shifting evil spirit. Not recommended for kids under 10. Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; through Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 12. $10-$15. Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-631-4445.

World Gotterus Flush [illegible] play about pregnancy [illegible] and the [illegible] of pregnancy from the perspective of a young single father. Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m., $15-$25. Laney College [illegible], 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-7366.

PICKS

Black Choreographers Festival

This year's festival scored a major coup with *Word Becomes Flesh*, Oakland artist Marc Bamuthi Joseph's compelling poem from a single father to his unborn son in which an all-male cast merges hip-hop, spoken word, and contemporary theater. Fresh off a much-heralded revival in New York, it's headed for a national tour in 2013 — catch it on Saturday, Feb. 11. True to its name, the Black Choreographers Festival highlights the Bay Area's talented African and African-American dance makers, and the opening show on Friday, Feb. 10, includes Reginald Savage, Corey Action, and Tenis Stone Ross, and Kendra Kimbrough Barnes, while the Sunday, Feb. 12, family matinee showcases pre-professional youth — you just might spot the next Marc Bamuthi Joseph. All shows are at Laney College Theater (900 Fallon St., Oakland); the festival continues for two more weekends in San Francisco. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., $10-$25. 888-819-5106 or BCFHereandNow.com. — *Claudia Bauer*

This Sweet Nothing

Raw, radical, and erotic, Vaslav Nijinsky's *Afternoon of a Faun* caused scandalized ballet-goers to riot in the streets when it premiered in Paris in 1912. The choreography disappeared, but its convention-defying influence can still be felt in ballet and modern dance. Most recently, it inspired *Was It a Dream I Loved*, an evening-length performance by This Sweet Nothing, a dance-theater company founded last year by Sonsherée Giles (a contemporary choreographer and dancer of unusual sensitivity and associate director of Oakland's AXIS Dance Company), composer Caroline Penwarden, and visual artist Heike Liss. Together they set their reimagined *Faun* in a "roving dreamscape, charged with sexual ambiguity" — sounds about right. They perform live with a company of great artists Friday through Sunday, February 10-12 at the [illegible] Black Box Theater at the [illegible] Theater (530 9th St., Oakland). Please do not riot after the show. 8 p.m., $15-$30. 925-943-7469 or ThisSweetNothing.org. — *C.B.*

[illegible]

The Kipling Hotel

To watch Don Reed's 2009 one-man show *East 14th: Tales of a Reluctant Player* was to fall in love with his style. He displayed an uncanny knack for chopping a four-year period out of his autobiography, shaping it into a perfect narrative arc, conveying the story through a repertory of character impersonations, and squeezing a moral from the end. And Reed managed to accomplish all that without resorting to platitudes (not until the end, at least) or sacrificing any humor. His new show, *The Kipling Hotel*, is about serving brunch to seniors as a part-time job while studying speech and debate at UCLA. Reed uses his endlessly elastic body to morph easily from character to character — he even throws in an over-the-top E.T. impression — while providing a vivid account of what it was like to be an African American college student who'd come up from the inner city. The material backdrop — Los Angeles during the era of Reaganomics, crack cocaine, included — heavily informs Reed's story, though he manages to find humor in even the most unfair and painful circumstances. Through March 25 at The Marsh Berkeley (2120 Allston Way, Berkeley). $20-$35. 510-704-8291 or TheMarsh.org. — *Rachel Swan*

The Hive Gallery

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THEATER REVIEW

BODY LANGUAGE

Body Awareness puts a modern twist on romantic comedy and women's issues.

By Rachel Swan

David Allen

Body Awareness is a genuinely funny comedy.

No one fled or even winced, when Indigo Girls' "Galileo" started wafting through the stereo speakers at Aurora Theatre on Sunday night, about five minutes before showtime. That alone says something about the audience for Annie Baker's *Body Awareness*, a new play incubated by the company's Global Age Project, which was launched to foster contemporary work by young playwrights. Baker's play is aptly and at the same time deceptively titled, since it's not actually about "body awareness" in the conventional sense. Rather, it's largely about how bodies — and by extension, behaviors — come to represent a person's psychology. It's also a traditional romantic comedy, albeit with modern twists and insights.

The backdrop is Body Awareness Week, a week-long series of performance art, feminist lectures, and photography exhibits at Shirley State College, a small institution in rural Vermont. It was launched by a 45-year-old psychology professor named Phyllis, who wanted to find a more all-inclusive substitute for "eating disorder awareness week." Phyllis is at once a free-minded thinker and a dyed-in-the-wool feminist: she subscribes to Susan Sontag's theory of "the male gaze," stocks her bookshelf with sexuality manuals, and disparages burlesque dance for being a veiled form of exploitation. Played by Amy Resnick, she's the type of character whose dogmatism and salty sense of humor hide her insecurities. When she's nervous, her eye twitches.

Show Details

Body Awareness runs through March 4 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $30-$48. AuroraTheatre.org

Body Awareness Week serves as a terrific framing device for a play that shuttles between abstract scholarship and reality. Half the scenes begin with Phyllis standing at a lectern, imparting wisdom on "image ownership" and objectification; the rest take place at home, where she's trying to make sense of family dynamics through an academic lens. Phyllis' girlfriend Joyce (Jeri Lynn Cohen) is flirting with a sleazebag photographer, Frank (Howard Swain), who specializes in female nudes. Joyce's 21-year-old son Jared (Patrick Russell) appears to suffer from a textbook case of Asperger's syndrome. Again and again, Phyllis tries to set everything right by imposing logic: Frank has no business taking pictures of underage girls, Jared needs to see a therapist, Joyce needs to explain her passive-aggressiveness. But in this environment, appeals to reason fall flat.

Most of the subject matter is relatively new even for a modern audience — hence the definition of Asperger's included in the program notes. But Baker and director Joy Carlin don't waste a lot of time with exposition. Rather, characters reveal themselves through their proclivities: Phyllis has her eye twitching, Jared fetishizes his electric toothbrush, Frank — who is easily the most self-possessed, if smarmiest character — has a glaringly phallic baroque recorder. (Actually he has two of them.) The only person who doesn't seem to have tics is Joyce, but she does look visibly uncomfortable in her own body, always dressing in baggy clothes that conceal flesh and deemphasize shape. Characters' actions often predetermine their interactions. Frank asserts his presence in a room by straddling a chair, rather than just sitting in it. During a particularly dramatic moment with Joyce, he cavalierly noshes a cheese cube.

Such things help lead the audience to conclusions without necessarily casting judgment. And granted, some of the issues in Baker's script lie in a moral gray area. Sure, there's nothing condonable about child pornography, and it would be hard to argue that Jared doesn't fall somewhere on the autism spectrum. But other parts of the story are squishier — like the idea that Joyce has to be punished for flirting outside her relationship, or Phyllis' claim that all forms of female exhibitionism tie back to the male gaze. Toward the end, Joyce hazards a counter-argument — that it can be empowering to participate in your own exploitation.

Through all that dense philosophical hand-wringing, Baker has managed to construct a genuinely funny comedy. Joyce's bickering with Jared will ring true for anyone who has had an overbearing mother. Frank's Cheshire Cat grin and devilish sweep of hair make him seem villainous in an almost campy way, but he plays the stereotypes well enough to be beloved. And Baker larded the script with pop-culture references that make it seem hip and smart: Phyllis' quoting of Deepak Chopra earned more chuckles than any other line.

Like many of the newer-school plays that have come to Aurora in recent years — Bob Glaudini's *Jack Goes Boating* and Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig* come to mind — *Body Awareness* resembles a sitcom, with its fast-paced scenes that end in punch lines, an endlessly mutable set design (it can transform from living room to lecture hall with the removal of a single piece), and no intermission. In this case, the dialogue is so fast and dense and quippy that none is really necessary. Baker is only thirty years old, but she's created a play that's smart enough to go Off Broadway. It relies on a few familiar tropes — like the Indigo Girls, whose music is winkingly appropriate for a play about a lesbian couple — but presents them in a bright new light. ●

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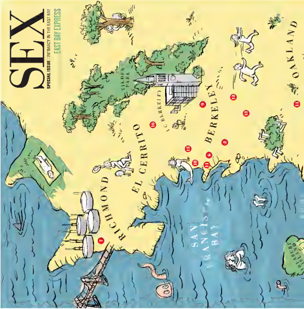
SEX

SPECIAL ISSUE | INTIMACY IN THE EAST BAY

EAST BAY EXPRESS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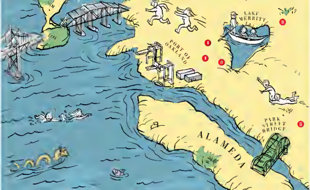

THE FUCKING GUIDE

THE EAST BAY'S BEST SEX SHOPS, PICKUP SPOTS, AND RESOU

① **FEELMORE510**
1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland [illegible]
A double ring of awesomeness here: It's got great sex accessories, and it's locally owned.

② **GOOD VIBRATIONS**
2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley (510) 841-[illegible]
A veritable emporium of toys and accessories to spice up your sex.

③ **GOOD VIBRATIONS**
3219 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland [illegible]
Brand spanking new to Oakland.

④ **ADULT BOOK STORE**
307 12th St., Oakland [illegible]
An oldie-but-goodie shop for all your uh, literary needs.

⑤ **LA CLINICA DE LA RAZA**
3451 East 12th St., Oakland [illegible]
This nonprofit clinic offers a wide range of women's health and reproductive health services with attentiveness to diverse backgrounds.

⑥ **CITY OF BERKELEY PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC**
830 University Ave., Berkeley [illegible]
If you've got time to kill and no cash to burn, this clinic has drop-in hours for a number of reproductive health needs.

⑦ **PLANNED PARENTHOOD**
101 Broadway, Richmond [illegible]
The bread and butter of reproductive health services, though limited after Oakland clinics closed last year.

⑧ **THE RUBY ROOM**
132 14th St., Oakland [illegible]
There's a reason they call it "The Booty Room."

⑨ **KIP'S**
2439 Durant Ave., Berkeley [illegible]
Once described in these pages by a *Daily Californian* col[illegible] as "a no[illegible] fuck zone," Kip's is Cal's go-to meat market.

⑩ **BERKELEY MARINA/AQUATIC PARK**
80 Bolivar Dr.
As the East Bay's original — and possibly only — [illegible] for crowdsourced cruising, this was [illegible] than Grindr long before Grindr existed.

⑪ **STEAMWORKS**
2107 Fourth St., Berkeley [illegible]
Sufficient to say the baths themselves aren't the main [illegible] at this [illegible] establishment.

⑫ **WHITE HORSE INN**
6551 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley [illegible]
As the nation's longest continuously running gay bar [illegible] place — affectionately/suggestively nicknamed "The White Ho" by regulars — boasts a [illegible]-year history of hookup facilitation. You can't argue with this.

⑬ **BERKELEY BOWL**
2020 Oregon St., Berkeley [illegible]
[illegible] the perfect Berkeley love story. [illegible] eyes met across the bok choy.

⑭ **ART MURMUR**
23rd St. and Telegraph Ave., Oakland
All those bodies pushed up against one another, all those weirdly hot avant-garde art pieces, for a [illegible] — if that doesn't get you all hot and bothered what else will?

⑮ **A LA FOLIE**
1864 Fourth St., Berkeley (510) 356-4477
This saucy boutique specializes in unfathomably sexy bras, underwear and other lacy bits you never knew you needed.

⑯ **BEAUTY AND ATTITUDE**
2918 Vine St., Berkeley (510) [illegible]-1700
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For a more comprehensive, interactive version of this map go to EastBayExpress.com/sexmap.

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THU FEB 16 7PM
NINA LACOUR
THE DISENCHANTMENTS

FRI FEB 17 7PM
RAMONA AUSUBEL
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THU FEB 23 7PM
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FREDERICK CREWS
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SUN FEB 26 3PM
POETRY FLASH
WILLIS BARNSTONE
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LECTURES & LIT

Listening in the Dark

Adam Johnson imagines life in North Korea

The protagonist of the first half of Adam Johnson's novel *The Orphan Master's Son* specializes in fighting (and therefore seeing) in the dark, an apt choice to open a tale set in North Korea, a nation closed off to the rest of the world. "While the book is a big, imaginative tale on trying to find the humanity of people who are out of our gaze, I tried to keep a lot of the facts true," said Johnson, a writing professor at Stanford. "As far as a metaphor, it is hard enough when you're writing about your own world; writing about North Korea, I feel like, even though I had lots of research, and even though I based a lot of things on real events, I do feel like I had to make everything up wholesale."

[illegible]

Johnson became "obsessed" with North Korea.

Johnson had a few aids in his blind journey: nonfiction works on geopolitics, nuclear bombs, and economics; and defector accounts such as *The Aquariums of Pyongyang* by Kang Chol-hwan and Pierre Rigoulot, an account of Kang's time in gulags. "It really grabbed me that that story was real, that North Korea really treated people this way," Johnson said. "And it filled my imagination. It made me obsessive."

In 2007, he spent a week in the DPRK during the Arirang Festival, a gymnastics and arts jubilee commemorating the birth of Kim Il-sung. Though it's illegal, and therefore very dangerous, for ordinary North Koreans to interact with foreigners, the trip helped Johnson immeasurably, allowing him access to "the surface verisimilitude of a fiction writer — what smells were out there, what were people wearing, were there trash cans or mailboxes, what the buildings look like." Indeed, this detail, the natural landscapes and crowded cityscapes, the way citizens interact and the timbre of national radio broadcasts, all color Johnson's yearning, melancholy, and sometimes absurd narrative with a kind of blacklight phosphorescence. Kidnapped opera singers, tattooed fishermen, a man who no one will believe is not an orphan, and even Kim Jong-il himself — who died a month before the book's publication — come to humble but lusty life under Johnson's hand.

The story unfurls as though written by a man possessed, and Johnson, who reads at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, February 9, was indeed consumed by questions of expression and self. "There were all these stories of defectors, but there was no human dimension to it. There was no one explaining what it was like to live in that place, what would happen to your identity if you couldn't be yourself, if revealing yourself came with great consequences, or if you could be denounced for speaking your mind. If people with families reported on one another, how would you be whole and human? When would you take risks for love, and when would you communicate your heart? To whom would you say, 'I think this is all a lie'?"

"My book was a large, imaginative work," he said. "There was no other way to do it. What we would truly hope for is that a day would come when North Korean writers tell their own stories in a real and legitimate way. I would gladly trade my imagined version for their own heartfelt, artistic ones." 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com

— *Stefanie Kalem*

LECTURES

Bob Zellner and Jack O'Dell: "Where do we go from here?" The former Dr. King associates speak as part of the [illegible] Lecture series. Thu., Feb. 9, 7 p.m., 510-[illegible]-5445. Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4000.

[illegible]: "Move to Amend" The [illegible] Green Party presidential [illegible] and [illegible] spokesperson for MoveToAmend.org discusses [illegible] for a constitutional amendment to [illegible] corporate personhood. Sat., Feb. 12, 7 p.m., $5-$15. MoveToAmend.org. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

Donald Donham: "Violence in a Time of Liberation: Murder and Ethnicity at a South African Gold Mine, 1994" The UC Davis anthropology professor, in conversation with Gillian Hart, reads from and discusses his new book, which examines the [illegible] and implications of a violent conflict at a South African gold mine. Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

Dr. Joel Beinin: "The Arab Spring and Beyond" The Stanford University history professor discusses the accomplishments of and lessons learned from the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East. Sat., Feb. 11, 9:30 [illegible], $3-[illegible]. 510-[illegible]-2412. [illegible]. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley, 510-981-5170.

Dr. Malcolm Potts and Dr. [illegible] Campbell: "Is Population Decline Inevitable? How Slowing Growth Leads to Prosperity" The duo, from the Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability, discuss population growth and its relationship to [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 9, 7 p.m., 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

J. [illegible]: "Scapegoat: The Chino Hills Murders and the Framing of Kevin Cooper" The author of *The Framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal* discusses his new book about the death penalty. Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m., $5-[illegible]. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, [illegible], BFUU.org.

[illegible]: "Activism in the Age of Obama" The author of *[illegible] Power: Reflections on the State of Black America* discusses her new book, as well as activism in the Obama age with [illegible], national program director for [illegible], and social justice [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 9, 8 p.m. [illegible] Books, 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-652-2344, [illegible].

[illegible]: "[illegible] in Italian-American Lives" The associate director for [illegible] and Cultural Programs at Queens College's John D. Calandra Italian American Institute discusses [illegible] volume about Italian American culture [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 9, 5 p.m., 510-642-3764, [illegible]. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, Berkeley.edu.

Mills College Art Lecture Series: [illegible] The [illegible] of painting and sculpture gives a lecture [illegible]. Wed., Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. 510-430-3250, MCAM.Mills.edu. Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College, Oakland, 510-430-2255, Mills.edu.

[illegible] Discourse Symposium A dozen of artists, architects, and scientists discuss how one's interpretation of nature has influenced their practice. RSVP required. 510-643-2755 or [illegible]. Fri., Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $30-$45. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Paula Fass: "[illegible] After WWII" In a conversation with Mary Ann Mason, the Margaret [illegible] discusses her book of essays about dramatic post-1945 changes in childhood. Tue., Feb. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

Shannon Brownlee: "[illegible] or [illegible]? Why [illegible] Health Care Reform Is Missing the Point" The visiting Woodrow Wilson fellow and acting [illegible] of the New America Foundation's Health Policy Program discusses the [illegible] of health care in our nation. Tue., Feb. 14, 2 p.m. Saint Mary's College Soda [illegible]

PICKS

Thomas Peele

The unraveling of the Your Black Muslim Bakery empire — and the killing of journalist Chauncey Bailey in a vain attempt to cover it up — was the most gripping East Bay true-crime story of the 21st century's first decade. Now, in *Killing the Messenger*, the seamy underbelly of the Bey family fiefdom gets a major investigative treatment, courtesy of award-winning reporter Thomas Peele. Peele will be at Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland; 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com) on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m., and at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism (121 North Gate Hall, 510-642-3383 or Journalism.Berkeley.edu) on Monday, Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Free. — *Stefanie Kalem*

Cristina Garcia

In her latest novel Cristina Garcia — author of the lush, charming *Dreaming in Cuban*, a National Book Award finalist — brings together a Japanese-Mexican-American matadora, a table-waiting ex-guerrilla, a colonel who committed civil-war atrocities back at home, and three other strangers in a luxury hotel in an anonymous Central American city; sets the town ablaze with political strife; and then takes [illegible] on them. Garcia reads from *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, just released in paperback, on Friday, Feb. 10, at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley), 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com. —*S.K.*

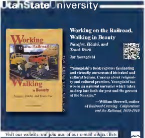
Cristina Garcia

Meg Rosoff

Bob, the nineteen-year-old star of *There Is No Dog* is lazy, horny, and ... well, God. Having inherited stewardship of the Earth from his mother — who won it in a poker game — Bob lusts about, causing natural catastrophes each time he falls for a human girl, and leaving his overworked assistant to clean up the mess. Meg Rosoff reads from her young-adult novel at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) on Monday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m., free. 510-339-8210 or GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com. —*S.K.*

Louise Glück and Dana Levin

Poetry Flash presents two award-winning poets on Thursday, Feb. 9, at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley): Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Critics Circle Award-winner Louise Glück, whose latest collection, *A Village Life*, is her eleventh; and Dana Levin, whose first collection was chosen by Glück for the 1999 APR/Honickman First Book Prize, and whose latest book is *Sky Burial*. 7:30 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com. —*S.K.*



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Working on the Railroad, Walking in Beauty

Navajos, Hózhó, and Track Work

Jay Youngdahl

"Youngdahl's book explores fascinating and virtually unexcavated historical and cultural terrain. Curious about religiosity and cultural practices, Youngdahl has woven an unusual narrative which takes us deep into both the past and the present of the Navajos."

—William Deverell, author of *Railroad Crossing: Californians and the Railroad, 1850-1910*

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Activity Center, Saint Mary's Rd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible]

Stephen Morse: "[illegible] The Jewish Marriage Contract and What It Really Says" The computer professional and creator of the One-Step website decodes the 1940 census and the Jewish Marriage Contract. Sun., Feb. 12, 12:30-4 p.m. [illegible]. Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. 510-531-3905. OaklandFHC.org.

Studio One Symposium The UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design's inaugural gathering features architectural discussion and debate with CCA associate professor of architecture David Fletcher, London-based [illegible], School of Architecture lecturer Mark [illegible], and more. In room 112. Fri., Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., Sat., Feb. 11, 9:45 a.m., free. StudioOneSymposium.Eventbrite.com. Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

UC Berkeley's Visiting Artist [illegible] Series With installation artists [illegible]. In room 160. Mon., Feb. 13. 510-642-4582. Art.Berkeley.edu. Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Art [illegible] Visiting [illegible] A discussion about art by the installation and site-specific works artist, who has received grants from the LEF Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and more. In room 160. Mon., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 510-642-2582. Art.Berkeley.edu. Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Berkeley.edu.

Zahid Hussain: "[illegible] Pakistan, Its Neighbors and Regional Security" The journalist and scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars discusses issues affecting the "Afghan endgame." In room 370. Fri., Feb. 10, 12-1:30 p.m. 510-[illegible]. Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible]. Berkeley.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

Guillermo Gómez-Peña The writer and performance artist shares his work as part of Mills College's Contemporary Writers Series. Tue., Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Lisser Hall Theater, Mills College, Oakland. Mills.edu.

[illegible] A book launch for the author's new book, *[illegible]*. The 7:30 p.m. reading follows a [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5300. PlymouthOakland.org.

Joseph [illegible] The [illegible] novelist and author of *[illegible]* discusses [illegible]. Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War A group discussion of [illegible] Black History Month. Sat., Feb. 11, 2-4 p.m. African American Museum and Library at Oakland, 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200. OaklandLibrary.org.

Lisa [illegible] The writer and [illegible] judge [illegible] and signs her book, *The Sky's the Limit*. Thu., Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. African American Museum and Library at Oakland, 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Discussing [illegible] and Poet [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 2 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Mr. Fish The author, also known as Dwayne Booth, [illegible] and Alameda. His book, *Go Fish: How to Win Contempt and Influence People*. Sun., Feb. 12, 1 p.m. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. RevolutionBooks.org.

Annie [illegible] The visiting [illegible] discusses her new children's book, *Smile*. Sun., Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

Rebecca [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] The three read from their respective works. Mon., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

[illegible] Discussing and showing a slideshow from her book, *My Town [illegible]*. Thu., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

St. Valentines Poetry Benefit With Andy Clausen, Richard Krech, Luis Garcia, and John Oliver Simon. Tue., Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m. $5-$10 donation. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170. BerkeleyArtHouse.WordPress.com.

[illegible]: "Social Rules for Kids: The Top 100 Social Rules Kids Need to Succeed" The licensed speech-language pathologist [illegible] her new social rule book for children. [illegible], Feb. 10, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Forum: "Building Bridges [illegible] Alameda, hosted [illegible]" [illegible] and actor Jesse Williams join moderator Chris Chatmon, executive director of the Oakland Unified School District, and a panel of local black male youth, young adult community [illegible], and established black male community leaders in a discussion about contemporary social issues. Sat., Feb. 11, 1-3 p.m. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Community Forum: "Beyond [illegible]: Jewish [illegible] on the Visiting Movement" The Progressive Jewish Alliance and [illegible] Funds for Justice regional director Susan [illegible] moderates a panel discussion with UC [illegible] professor David [illegible], Fred Warren, founding member of the Occupy Oakland Jewish Contingent, and other local activists. Thu., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. [illegible]. JCC [illegible], 5811 Racine St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Food Stamp Assistance for Alameda County Community Members An Alameda County Community Food Bank representative shows how to apply for food stamps. Times vary. Second Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

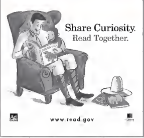
SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley [illegible] Featuring [illegible] Spoken word hosted by Betsy Gomez, featuring Julie DeWolf, Sevan, and Katelyn Lucas. Wed., Feb. 15, 8 p.m. $8. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

House of the Muse Poetry Slam hosted by Jamie White. Second Thursday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Second Saturday [illegible] Poetry [illegible] Poetry reading and open mic. Second [illegible] of every month, 7-9 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] Poetry Slam Open-mic with poetry and DJ music for youth under 21. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.



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AQUARIAN AGE

ROMANCE OR CREATIVITY

For the week of February 8-14, 2012

By Raffee Finn

Passions run deep this week, and hearts long for the thrill of amorous adventures — an astral current befitting the days and nights leading up to the holiday of love. And because Uranus skews many of those feelings toward the eclectic, it would be wise to expect unconventional and imaginative ways of saying, "I love you." But these fervent feelings are not limited solely to romantic longings. Those among us who are not inclined toward sending flowers or chocolates on Valentine's Day, as well as those not pining for a partner or tormented by lost or unrequited love, could experience this passionate stream as creative surges. And these surges could be just as captivating and convincing as love-at-first-sight adrenalin rushes, because they have the force and spontaneity to displace routine. Allow yourself to be *swept away*, and you just might discover or recover a piece of your heart that you didn't even know was missing.

The source of this ardent energy is a Venus/Uranus conjunction in Aries. Venus is the goddess of love, and when she transits Aries, she has a tendency to be direct about what she needs and wants. She also has a tendency to be impulsive, especially when she's infatuated, which happens quite often and quite quickly. Uranus represents sudden shifts; it is the principle of revolution and change, and because of that, it signals instability. That is why any combination of Venus and Uranus turns feelings of love erratic. But that's not all. Venus and Uranus contacts are also deemed erotic. So don't be surprised if you feel a strong desire to explore — if only in your fantasies. Polite astrologers of bygone days have referred to the erotic yearnings of Venus/Uranus as "peculiar and strange inclinations." These days, given just how much exposure most of us have had to all sorts of choices, it would be hard to define any inclination as odd. (Individualistic, perhaps, but odd — not really.)

But there is a rub. Connections formed under Venus/Uranus contacts don't often last. It's the infatuation that's thrilling, not the possibility of longevity. If you must propose under this influence, go ahead, but wait a few weeks before actually saying, "I do."

Of course, Uranus is the master of surprise, and because it only catalyzes what's stagnant and in need of change, those who have avoided intimacy could find themselves moving out of seclusion and into inclusion and interaction. And while that sudden immersion in connectedness might feel awkward at first, the trick in handling this type of Uranian shift is staying as present as possible for the process.

From a creative perspective, the Venus/Uranus conjunction is sure to stimulate all variety of artistic endeavors, especially if you allow yourself to move out of habitual choices. Try a different tonal range or a different palate. Listen to new instruments and experiment with unusual rhythms. Most importantly, remember that life is the most creative expression of all and use the vibrant combination of Venus and Uranus to live with greater gusto. Be innovative, inventive, and willing to make the most of the moment, regardless of how fleeting its magic may be.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Be uninhibited. Wear your heart on your sleeve, and only speak your heart. Yes, your enthusiasm may be too intense for some, but for you, it's the pure expression of your spirit — wear it well.

TAURUS Do whatever it takes to keep track of all your ideas, especially inspiration that comes through dreams or creative visualization. Don't worry about how you'll actualize your visions. All the pieces will eventually fall into place.

GEMINI Rely on your innate charm and you'll handle several social situations skillfully. And if you run into a snag, just remember to ask questions — almost everyone likes personal attention.

CANCER You have a unique opportunity to preen your feathers and strut your stuff without anyone objecting to you stealing the spotlight. Have at it, and have fun being the center of attention.

LEO Exotic locales are calling, and if you can't accept the invitation, try adding extra spice to your fantasies. Armchair adventures may not be as satisfying as an actual safari, but don't let that dampen your imagination.

VIRGO Even if you think you can handle everything shifting at once, you may not be able to manage the changes as well as you would like. Don't be proud; ask for help.

LIBRA All your relationships are likely to turn topsy turvy. And while that may be uncomfortable, it could also be beneficial, especially if the new perspective moves you into greater self-awareness.

SCORPIO You're managing a tremendous workload, but if you're willing to relinquish a cherished but outworn tradition, you'll be able to take advantage of several surprising opportunities to lighten your load.

SAGITTARIUS Fall in love with everyone, but especially with yourself, so much so that you express all your feelings. Of course you'll say too much; you always do. But who cares? Your words are an inspiration.

CAPRICORN Your nest is disturbed, and it's making you nervous about what lies ahead. And while your nervous system is challenged, change is good, especially for those of us who tend to take root.

AQUARIUS Be clear, precise, and direct and you will be appreciated for your candor. I'm not suggesting you gloss over the difficulty. I'm advising you to confront it with wisdom and wit.

PISCES Take advantage of opportunities to improve your finances, but do not fall prey to get-rich-quick schemes. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Stay optimistic, but be realistic. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn *specializes in Transformational Astrology.* For readings, call 1-888-937-5264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

Near-silent emissaries wield skewers of grilled meat in a relentless assault. Chris Duffey

HOW TO SURVIVE A BRAZILIAN MEAT PARTY

Drink plenty of water and pace yourself at Pikanha's.

By Jesse Hirsch

A short list of topics to avoid over a meal at Pikanha's steakhouse: Paula Deen, heart disease, factory farming, the obesity epidemic. More than the cognitive dissonance those issues could foster, I'd hate to see you lose any appetite — you're going to need it.

Pikanha's is the East Bay's only Brazilian churrascaria, served up in the breakneck rodízio (continuous service) style. For one fixed price, a never-ending grilled meat barrage is carved onto your plate by a squadron of crisp-shirted waiters. This type of restaurant hit its stride several years back, with two Texas-based chains — Texas de Brazil and Fogo de Chão — spreading at a whiplash pace through the southern and eastern parts of the United States.

Pikanha's may not have name recognition, but it is way homier than its franchised cousins. Walls blaze with the bright primary colors of a nursery school or Colombian party bus, cluttered with a jumble of country folk art, African paintings, and clocks — so many clocks. Located in Point Richmond's precious center, unobstructed windows allow passersby to ogle the gluttonous cheer.

At $22 per person ($16 for lunch), Pikanha's dinner is less than half the price of the chains. Your dollar goes far here. Besides a hot and cold self-serve buffet, you get unlimited *picanha* and *alcatra* beef (both top sirloin rump cuts), tri-tip steak with garlic, tri-tip with parmesan, beef kebabs with vegetables, chicken wings, chicken breast wrapped in bacon, sirloin wrapped in bacon, chicken hearts (medium or well-done), pork loin, and leg of lamb.

Pikanha's Brazilian Steak House
25 West Richmond Ave.
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510-237-7585 or Pikanhas.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5 p.m.-9 p.m.,
Sat.-Sun. 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
Reservations accepted. Cash, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express.

The chicken wings and pork loin get a little beer and pepper marinade, but most of the meat isn't seasoned beyond large salt crystals (in traditional *churrascaria* fashion). "We don't want anything to stand in the way of the meat," says Pikanha's owner Thais Silva.

Give your host the nod, and the assault begins: One by one, identically clad, near-silent emissaries approach your table with raised eyebrows and skewers of grilled meat. The pace is relentless, keeping dinner conversations Twitter-length and allowing little time for appetite assessment. The assembly line doesn't end until you say mercy; for the uninitiated, the experience is dizzying.

Thus, allow me to provide you with a Pikanha's survival guide. If you're in the market for a carnal carnival, this list of tips should convert the experience from a panic attack to a carefree feast.

Skip the hot buffet. The steam trays are primarily filled with worthless carbs — overdone cafeteria fettuccine in red sauce, rice and potatoes galore — sure to hoard an undue share of stomach space. Also bypass the watery beef and black bean stew and the boiled chicken. Trust me, *gaucho*: the churrasco is better.

Have some salad. Feel free to skip the pasty potato salad and the supermarket dolmas at the cold buffet station. But would a few greens kill you? Call it necessary roughage.

Don't stress about cleaning your plate. Stern menu warnings indicate you'll be charged a $10 penalty for any uneaten food. This unnerving rule made me feel like a game show contestant, balancing my American desire to maximize consumption with an irrational fear of the penalty. One of my dining companions went so far as to throw a few chicken hearts in the bathroom trash. Insider's secret: "We never actually charge that fee," says Silva. "We just want to scare people into not wasting food."

Don't accept meat out of courtesy. When you decline one of the proffered meats, there's an awkward moment where the server shoots you a confused, almost disappointed look. Fogo de Chão provides plastic chips you leave on your table — green indicates you still need meat, red stops the flow — to avoid this personalized pressure. At Pikanha's, you'll just need to stay strong.

Be vocal about your preferences. In between servings, all the meat is continually heated on the grill. Naturally, some of it will end up browned and crisp, while the fresher stuff is pink and butter-soft. Don't let it be a crapshoot: you can request cuts that are cooked to your desired doneness.

Expect inconsistency. Some of the meat will be too charred, some will be gristly, and some will be over-salted. Don't sweat it. There's more to come.

Drink some water. Speaking of salt, you're going to ingest more than your share at Pikanha's. Especially if you're guzzling the powerful caipirinhas or caipiroskas (made with vodka), you'll definitely want to hydrate.

Try the chicken hearts. Silva says the American palate is squeamish — we waste valuable time considering how many dead chickens are needed for each skewer of hearts. You're already here, so don't overthink it. A few Kalamata-sized hearts, with their chewy texture and dark, musky flavor, are well worth a sample.

Eat the sweets. Several times during the meal, the meat program shifts focus. The host periodically brings over dishes of deep-fried bananas, the hot inner paste a perfect contrast to the pebbly sugared exterior. The servers also carve up slices of grilled pineapple, steaming hot and dusted with cinnamon sugar. These treats provide a bit of relief from the potential tedium of meat on repeat.

At such deep discount prices, the meat sources are predictably murky: don't expect a Niman steak. Still, some of the beef cuts were quite tender (the *picanha* was consistently strong), and everything bears the familiar smoky imprint of the grill. Plus, there's plenty of Sriracha, A.1, and Tabasco for those who want a little more flavor costuming.

Pikanha's scratches a deep carnivorous itch for the unapologetic diner who puts quantity before quality, taste before health. But at the risk of discouraging repeat customers, even Silva advocates restraint. "You should not come here too much," she says. "It is not so good for you." ●

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WHAT THE FORK

ALAMEDA GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO MOBILE FOOD

Plus the status of Jack London Square Market.

By Jesse Hirsch

Last week the City of Alameda quietly passed one of the Bay Area's most permissive mobile food ordinances, opening up virtually every city street to food trucks. The only major restrictions are a ban on parking 25 feet from crosswalks, 50 feet from driveways, or on the same block as elementary or middle schools while in session. Five off-street locations are also approved: Alameda Point, the College of Alameda, South Shore Shopping Center, Harbor Bay Business Park, and Marina Village Business Park.

"There is a new generation of food trucks offering exciting and innovative menus," said Alameda Mayor Marie Gilmore in a press release, sounding a bit like a time traveler from 2009.

Previously, Alameda had virtually no mobile food regulations. The few trucks that sometimes parked in the city — like the Oakland-based Jon's Street Eats and Get Goes Mobile Cafe — operated in something of a legal gray area. Now these and any other vendors will need to obtain encroachment permits to park in public spaces, or conditional use permits for private areas. The ordinance also requires food trucks to obtain city business licenses, all appropriate health and safety inspections, and pay taxes like their brick-and-mortar counterparts.

Markedly absent are rules about parking near restaurants, or procedures that allow neighbors to lodge complaints and hold public hearings (unlike the painfully protracted notification process in San Francisco or in Oakland's new temporary regulations). Alameda Development Manager Eric Fonstein said there was some business community pushback, but that restaurant owners were generally reasonable.

Now that citywide mobile food is officially sanctioned, the question remains: Will trucks come? There is already mobile food at big events like the Alameda Point Antiques Faire, but what about day-to-day operations? Alameda may not have the population or workforce density of other Bay locales, but underserved spots like the Harbor Bay Business Park may prove to have vendor allure. Time will tell.

The new ordinance went into effect February 6. The city will review it in early 2013 to address any major issues that may have arisen.

Jack London Square Market

Long presumed dead in the water, plans for the Jack London Square Market resurfaced last week with an announcement in the *San Francisco Business Times* that the market's focus would shift from food retail to manufacturing. As it turns out, it's mostly a semantic shift.

Jim Ellis, president of property owner Ellis Partners, envisions five to ten combined retail and production operations, similar to Acme Bread in San Francisco's Ferry Building Marketplace. Seeing that this kind of mixed-use business has always been the role model for the Jack London market, the plans haven't changed all that much. The biggest change is a shift to the well-worn foodie lexicon du jour: Ellis favors the term "artisanal food production" to manufacturing.

The Jack London Market is still a ways off. Lamb PR

"We're trying to keep things current and relevant," said Ellis in a phone interview last week. "These are the thriving food businesses that the city of Oakland really needs right now."

Ellis and company have been banging the drum on their market concept for years now, with opening dates pushed back enough times to make skeptics out of the staunchest optimists. The recent opening of Daniel Patterson's long-awaited Haven restaurant is being heralded as a sign of the market building's revitalization, but a nighttime dining destination won't necessarily draw the businesses Ellis needs (Haven may expand to lunch hours this year).

The market building has just over 190,000 square feet total. This is split into somewhere between 62,000 and 95,000 square feet of retail space (Ellis' PR firm gave conflicting figures), with the remaining square footage earmarked as office space. The office space is roughly half leased, but there are still no retail tenants in the building besides Haven.

Ellis points to the recently opened Bala Pasta at nearby 431 Water Street and Miette at 85 Webster Street (both Ellis-owned mixed-use properties) as evidence of the artisanal food revolution in Jack London Square. Belcampo Meats also has an office nearby, but owner Anya Fernald said the company has no intention of opening retail or production centers in the area.

While these food businesses, as well as restaurants like Haven and Bocanova, certainly give the neighborhood a boost, it hasn't enticed anyone to take the bait on the market building. Ellis Partners is even offering attractive investment capital to food startups — in conjunction with nebulous "community organizations" — but has failed to seed the pot. Two other 30,000-square-foot, Ellis-owned retail properties in Jack London Square also remain vacant, apparently while the developer attempts to bring in a high-end grocer like Whole Foods.

So the aspiration to create a fancy food critical mass, with the market as a centerpiece, remains stalled. Ellis cites the difficult economy and "issues with Occupy Oakland" as reasons for the difficulties. "Times have been tough," he said, "but we remain on track to create a thriving hub for food businesses." It's a very similar rhetoric to nearly five years ago — hard to believe then, harder to believe now. ■

Jesse.Hirsch@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the [illegible]

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Steakhouses, Brazilian Joints, and Restaurants in Richmond

The Alley
3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505. Rudimentary yet inexpensive and generously apportioned retro-comfort food — steaks, burgers, and fried chicken with all the fixings — compose the limited menu of this venerable Grand Lake watering hole. But there's more to the place than the food: cheap, potent, well-made drinks; a friendly, convivial atmosphere; and Rod Dibble, the joint's longstanding cocktail pianist extraordinaire. The setting — a neo-noir alleyway in clotheslines, fencing, and thousands of vintage business cards — is worth the price of admission alone. $$

The Baltic
135 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-237-1000. This venerable (est. 1904) Point Richmond hot-night spot restaurant serves German food that ranges from the tasty (bratwurst, pea soup, shrimp salad) to the avoidable (wienerschnitzel, sauerbraten, venison), but the joint's real attraction is its attractive beer garden, rollicking atmosphere, live entertainment, and ambient century-old vibe. Get the apple strudel or the Black Forest cake for dessert. $$$

BoilerHouse Restaurant
1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, [illegible]. The southern end of Richmond's old Ford assembly plant has been converted into an impressive yet casual industrial-chic event space and restaurant where one can dine on good American grub while enjoying beautiful vistas of the harbor, the bay, and the Berkeley hills. Yummy snacks include sliders, drummettes, and sweet potato fries; skirt steak, Cajun shrimp, and a thin-crusted apple-blue-cheese pizza are fine entrée options. Desserts are just so-so, but the cocktails are tasty and inventive. Friendly, professional service. $$

Brazil Fresh Squeeze Cafe
2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011. Owner Paulo [illegible] has covered his tiny trailer with signs, flags, a graffiti-depicted dining area, plastic tables, and a surreal blend of real and faux plants, bringing a barren parking lot to life. Brazil Cafe's tri-tip sandwiches (picanha), chunks of grilled beef stuffed into a French roll slathered with cilantro-garlic sauce are famous (get one with ricotta and pineapple). The "bomaweer" chicken salad, which incorporates corn and chopped hearts of palm, is great, too. Everyone sips mango smoothies from plastic glasses. $

DAMO Chinese Restaurant
4288A [illegible], El [illegible], 510-307-3888. DAMO manages to be everything to everyone. The 500-item menu contains hundreds of variations on low-priced Cantonese noodle dishes, soups, and congee (rice porridge) as well as costlier dinner entrées. The restaurant is sparkling clean, fast, and fresh, but don't expect white tablecloth style or service. It's hard to track down the overworked servers. Especially good are the roast meats and seafood, caught to order from a wall of fish tanks and prepared to your specifications. $-$$$

El Tapatio
410 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-6999. The action at El Tapatio isn't inside the restaurant, but there's always a crowd clustering in the parking lot around the joint's side window, which is painted to look like a taco truck — and the resemblance is triple-take good. El Tapatio's *lengua* (tongue) and *al pastor* (spicy pork) tacos are as good as any of the taco trucks on Richmond's 23rd Street strip. And none of its rivals serve the ceviche tostadas it does, nor are they open 24 hours. $

Hidden City Cafe
109 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-9738. Chez Panisse alumna Shellie Bourgault serves California cuisine in a brick-walled vintage building. Organic ingredients go into creative breakfasts and a changing lunch menu that stretches old standbys: fava bean falafel burger, carnitas wrap with tomatillo-avocado salsa, breaded pork chop with grilled polenta, ratatouille, and aioli. Meal-size salads and a selection of vegetarian entrées are always on the menu. $$

Hotel Mac
50 Washington Ave., Richmond, 510-233-0576. Retro-American specialties like Cobb salad, pot roast, rack of lamb, and pineapple upside-down cake share menu space with spring rolls, jerk chicken, and chai crème brûlée at this unfocused, albeit affable eatery housed within a venerable Point Richmond hotel. Although the bill of fare is littered with perfunctory, uninspired land mines, there are enough delectable dishes to inspire a memorable meal or two: bright, sparkly oysters Rockefeller, creamy shrimp tostadas touched with wasabi and cilantro, a chewy yet richly flavored prime rib, an irresistible Snickers-laden candy bar pie. The wine list is generic yet timeworn. $$$

McNamara's Steak & Chop House
7400 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, 925-833-0995. The permanent ochre dusk at this Dublin steakhouse is punctuated only by a constellation of table lamps and the lunar glow of hundreds of backlit bottles at the bar. It's a magical hour, the McNamara's hour, when martini follows martini until it's time to cut up some meat. Summon one of the cuts of choice Angus steak, wet-aged for up to a month until buttery and seared until crusty (the New York and the ribeye excel). Cast aside all the trappings — the sauces, the cheeses, the smashed potatoes are decent but not exceptional — until it's just you, face to face with your beef, armed only with cold gin and a butter knife. $$$

Pho Hoa Thai
12600 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-[illegible]. Despite the name, the *pho* is just okay at this neighborhood Vietnamese, a scuffed, rambling space with the faux stiffness of a 1950s dinner lounge. Focus instead on the *cháo*, bowls of rice porridge similar to Cantonese *jook*. It's Saigon street food at its most basic, comforting slurries of long-cooked rice. *Cháo cá gio hao* is studded with soft hunks of sweet-tasting white fish, canned straw mushrooms, and garlic chives. If you're really brave, try *cháo huyet* swirled with metallic-tasting pork blood. $-$$

Plaza Garibaldi
2501 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-[illegible]. Owner Sofia Manary traded up her Richmond taco stand for a place where she could cook dishes from her native Peru. The massive list of Mexican combo plates is far from exciting, and not every Peruvian dish sparkles. But bright-tasting *ceviche mixto* is authentically homely, and an order of *anticuchos* (grilled sliced beef heart) is mandatory, if only for its sauce, spiked with the peppery Peruvian herb huacatay. $-$$

Prime Spot Bar & Grill
3401 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-[illegible]. This unlikely steakhouse serves up a random menu of red meat, cocktails, and appetizers reminiscent of a TGIFriday's (buffalo wings, mozzarella sticks, and the like). The food's pretty good and considerably less expensive than what you'd pay at a more upscale steakhouse, but some of the offerings are on the institutional side. $$$

Ban Kanom Thai
3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-[illegible]. Most Thai restaurants for Thai diners are pretty much limited to dishes that have been muffled or otherwise dumbed down, but at this takeout food shop in the Pacific East Mall, Bangkok-born owner Salalinee Ekabit is cooking primarily for an Asian clientele, meaning that her hearty home curries, green papaya salad, five-spice pork hock, and sticky-rice sweets present flavors more vivid, funkier, less sugary

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Red Buffalo

2023 Market St., Oakland, 510-832-8808. Deep in West Oakland's Ghost Town neighborhood sits this mysteriously excellent takeout spot, a mix of bulletproof glass and old-timey kitsch decor. The wings are moist, tender and full of meaty flavor, not to mention larger than standard broiler fare. The sizzling hot wing, made with a combo of Trappey's fire sauce and fresh jalapeños, bowls you over with its hot tastiness. The smoky chipotle wing is also a scorcher with a bit less vinegar in the sauce. Both hot wings have pepper pieces embedded in the skin, a nod to thoughtful preparation. The low-cost menu also includes a range of Philly cheesesteaks and a deep-fried Twinkie with chocolate and strawberry dipping sauce. $

Wing Town Cafe

1495 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-842-[illegible]. [illegible] Wing Town Cafe is a small, family-owned eatery, tucked into a ramshackle shopping plaza anchored by a Mi Pueblo supermarket. They may not offer pasture-raised, organic meat but the fresh-not-frozen chicken doesn't give off any strange chemical artifices. The meat runs a little dry, but the skin has a pronounced crispness, browned on the edges. Lemon pepper is the top seller but the hot wing is solid, and the house wing, "Oooh Weee!" is a custom blend of hot sauce, a thick molasses barbecue, and garlic: interesting if not entirely successful. $

Lin Jia Asian Kitchen

3437 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8322. Marina Lam worked in her parents' Chinese takeout restaurant in Hayward for fifteen years, biding her time until she could open her own shop using Mary's chickens, Niman beef, organic produce, and no MSG. Lin Jia is the result: a Chinese restaurant with globetrotting influences from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand. Everything is fresh and handsomely prepared, and you won't feel the bloat of cheap takeout, but too-clean Lin Jia sometimes feels lacking in passion. Make sure to order the ethereal wonton soup and the Koi Bao, a deconstructed pork bun. $$

Potala Organic Cafe

1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-4275. Potala Organic Cafe dispels commonly held beliefs about the flavorlessness of macrobiotic food. Chef Tenzin, a fifteen-year veteran of Shangri-La Cafe in North Oakland (formerly Manzanita and Organic Cafe), is co-owner, and he's branching out from the stripped-down cuisine of his past. Everything is organic and vegan, and besides a few potato and beet digressions, also largely macrobiotic. More importantly, the food has flavor, with seasonings like basil, ginger, and garlic making the healthful fare more user-friendly for the uninitiated. Similar to Shangri-La, the rotating daily menu is an affordable prix fixe with a balanced range of grains, soups, desserts, salads, and smoked veggies in each meal. $

Bettes Oceanview Diner

1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230. [illegible] industrial area that was given a dazzling new lease on life, Bette's made typical diner cuisine into the stratosphere. A jukebox and all-day counter bespeak the 1940s, and *Philadelphia* scrapple and corned beef hash are popular. But FDR never tasted anything like these outrageously fluffy soufflé pancakes (served with seasonal fruits) or the lightly fried cod fillets, served on open-faced baguettes with house-made tartar. Expect consistency: current menu items and preparations have been the same since Bette's opened in 1982. Be forewarned: Bette's wait times can be brutal, so bring a book and a sense of humor. $$

Rumbo al Sur

4239 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-479-1208. Rumbo al Sur is the long-anticipated pan-Latin experiment from Chef Matt Colgan of critics' darling À Côté. But after eleven years working in Mediterranean tapas, Colgan's foray into a new ethnic cuisine has mixed results. He is light on the spice, trying to appeal to a broad range of palates. Much of the resulting fare leans bland, though top-shelf dishes like the chiles rellenos and pozole verde hint at Colgan's potential. For sleepy Glenview, Rumbo al Sur is a needed shot of adrenaline. Locals pack the spot even on weeknights, basking in a club-like vibe. $$

and spicier than you find with most American Thai food. Don't miss the jars of Elchili's hand-pounded red curry paste and nam prik, including one flavored with mengda: a type of cockroach. $

SaWadDee Thai Restaurant

12[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible]-3542. Kids will [illegible] the Thai-style tables, but their parents will appreciate its grilled meats, fragrant salads, and rich curries — the kind of fare that has made Thai cuisine the Bay Area's favorite comfort food. SaWadDee's sour and hot tom yum is one of the best in the area, and its salty-sweet sticky rice with mango is the perfect finish for the meal. $-$$

Saiwong Thai

3288 Pierce St. #M-11, Richmond, 510-558-9131. On weekend days, the owner of this tiny market clears a few shelves, replacing the imported crafts with stacks of clear plastic containers. Many of the curries, dumplings, desserts, salads, and noodle dishes inside are made by local Thai restaurants, except you won't see any of these dishes on their menus. Saiwong sells Thai snacks for Thai tastes, not American ones. The quality can be hit-or-miss, but the hits hit hard — with chile heat and pungency. $

Tacos Los Primos

Parking lot of [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond. [illegible] pleasant this taco truck [illegible] as they get. Spit-roasted gyros style, the meaty pork blackens around the edges where its spicy marinade caramelizes. You can get it layered inside a fat, griddled torta or spread on to griddled corn tortillas and topped with salsa, raw onions, and cilantro. There's a reason the lot where Primos parks is rarely empty. Locals also stand in line for its slow-cooked carnitas and tender cabeza (beef cheeks). $

Taqueria La Bamba

12,345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-2288. Taqueria La Bamba dishes up the real thing: homestyle Salvadoran food and respectable Mexican street fare. Salt can be a problem with the Mexican-style meats. Come here for pupusas: Salvadoran tamales, creamy refried beans, and heartbreakingly good tortillas, patted out and grilled to order. $

Up & Under

2 West Richmond Ave., Point Richmond, 510-778-1313. North America's first rugby pub serves up substantial and often tasty grub in a wonderfully rococo setting. Filet mignon sliders, the five-sausage platter, the pulled-pork sandwich, and cheesy scalloped potatoes are among the standouts; other dishes are on the homely-bland side. Get the Muddy Cleat (molten chocolate cake with chocolate sauce and chocolate ice cream) for dessert. The pressed copper ceiling, hand-wrought redwood tables, and wall-to-wall rugby paraphernalia are eye-catching, to say the least. Homey family-friendly atmo. $$$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

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LAST CALL

YE OLDE AWESOME PLACE TO DRINK

The Hut is Rockridge's best bar — just don't tell anyone

By Ellen Cushing

This is not a glowing review of Ye Olde Hut. That would be in explicit violation of the promise I made to the friend who took me there, Ellie, a UC Berkeley grad student who'd waxed wide-eyed about it so many times I had to see it for myself. We finally went on Saturday night, but only after I swore that no matter how much I loved the place, I'd tamp down the effusiveness so as to not render the place unenjoyably full with my mighty sphere of influence. With the great power of alt-weekly alcohol criticism comes great responsibility, and all that, alas.

From the outside, The Hut — most people wisely dispense with the "Ye Olde" — is a little odd, an authentic- and old-looking Tudor-style house set incongruously amidst the genteel sleekness of Rockridge. It's odd on the inside, too. Pull open the heavy door and you'll be greeted on your left by a pair of full-size ping-pong tables(!) and on your right by a mini-gallery of framed sepia-toned photos, as though a frat house has somehow been airlifted and plunked down inside an ancient hunting lodge. Move into the sprawling main room and the cabin-versus-dive cognitive dissonance continues: There's a neon-lit digital jukebox, a couple (unobtrusive) TVs, and a pool table complete with a low-hanging, Corona logo-emblazoned lamp. But there's also a fireplace, a high, pitched ceiling, and plentiful cozy nooks. It's not a bad fusion, though, and at the bar this slight schizophrenia has distinctly best-of-both-worlds implications: The cocktails are sturdy, simple, and cheap (around $4-$6 for wells and draft beers, cash only), but the people making them are suspiciously un-surly, and among the PBRs and Coronas, you'll also find local and local-ish microbrews like Russian River's Pliny the Elder and Drake's Amber.

Perhaps because of its neither-here-nor-there-ness, or maybe because it doesn't really work hard to make itself the kind of destination bar people travel far for, The Hut has a diverse, local-feeling clientele. On Saturday, that meant gray-bearded Free Speech Movement types playing pool and talking politics, plaid-bedecked grad students over by the ping-pong, a trio of halter-topped women talking bad dates and corporate-sounding jobs near the fireplace, a wild-eyed caricaturist who asked us to sit for a drawing, and a young woman quietly reading alone in stocking feet, each party appearing equally at home and equally happy to be there.

Because — sorry, Ellie! — how could you not? The Hut is friendly but not decorous, well-loved but not dirty, lively but not claustrophobic, and, mercifully, quiet enough to have a conversation. Whether it's a dive with mutual self-respect or a non-dive with a sense of humor, it's inviting and warm and frankly wonderful, which is why you probably shouldn't go there. ●

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

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11th Annual Double the Pleasure As part of SF Beer Week, for more than 75 Bay Area breweries [illegible]. Admission gets you a souvenir glass and the pours, and extra pours at $2 each. Sat., Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. $45. The [illegible], 1900 [illegible] St., Hayward. 510-[illegible]. The [illegible].com.

All Hot Crawfish Crawfest The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce's Bourse [illegible] food [illegible] and French bread and cajun salad, [illegible] sauce, and a brewer table. Thu., Feb. 9, 6-9 p.m. $45-$50; $400 for table of 10. 510-549-7000, BerkeleyChamber.com. Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7771. Spengers.com.

Beer Trivia and Anderson Valley Brewing [illegible], Wed., Feb. 15, [illegible] p.m. free. Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2072 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-8866, BobbyGsPizzeria.com.

Beer Boost Coffee Tasting No RSVP required. Thu., Feb. 9, 2-5 p.m. free. Blue Bottle Coffee, 300 Webster St., Oakland. 510-832-2341. BlueBottleCoffee.net.

Drake's Tour and Beer Pairing Chip [illegible] for a [illegible] of two whole pigs, with up to 24 Drake's beers on tap. Wed., Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m. $45. [illegible]. Drake's Brewing Company, 1933 Davis St., San Leandro. 510-562-0866.

Extra-Curricular Culinary Adventures: [illegible] With [illegible] brewing demonstrations by Conca Brewing Co., new [illegible] by Oakland Brew Co., [illegible] menu, and more. Part of TRAST's new food and wine workshop series. Mon., Feb. 13, 4-6 p.m. $35. TRAST, 5940 College Ave., Oakland. 510-658-5900. TRASTWineLounge.com.

Extra-Curricular Culinary Adventures: [illegible] [illegible] Italian wines [illegible] Part of TRAST's new food and wine workshop series. Sun., Feb. 12, 4-6 p.m. $35. [illegible]. 5940 College Ave., Oakland. 510-658-5900. TRASTWineLounge.com.

Let's Fall in Love: Valentine's Dinner and [illegible] With a three-course dinner paired with Rosenblum wines, barrel tasting and the cellar's winemaker and [illegible], a chocolate bar and dancing to the Park Street [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 7-10:30 p.m. $85. Rosenblum Cellars, 2900 Main St., Oakland. 510-865-7007. RosenblumCellars.com.

[illegible] Plus open mic. Tue., Feb. 14, 8-11 p.m. free. Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2072 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-8866, BobbyGsPizzeria.com.

[illegible] Mon., Feb. 13, 7-11 p.m. free. Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2112 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-8866. BobbyGsPizzeria.com.

[illegible] With Ryan [illegible]. Plus Dinner paired with a [illegible] dish. Tue., Feb. 14, 6-8 p.m. Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen, 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-3354. SaulsDeli.com.

[illegible] Featuring the 5-course menu of "Dinner that Goes with a Red Wine," [illegible] for matching the [illegible] by Brown and Mosley. Mondays, 6 p.m. [illegible]. 484 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. [illegible].com.

Muddy Boots and [illegible] at Jupiter Gather on Jupiter's patio for at least [illegible] of gravy-poured, cask-conditioned specialty ales [illegible] Bay Area breweries, and live music [illegible]. Feb. 14, [illegible] p.m., free entry; beer and food for purchase. Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277. JupiterBeer.com.

Sanctuary Sweetheart Vegan Valentine's [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 209-244-1174. [illegible]. Grand Lake Oakland Farmers Market, Splash Pad Park, between Grand and Lakeshore avenues, Oakland. www.MarinCountyFarmersMarkets.org.

Beer Sunday at Triple Rock and [illegible] With tastings of [illegible] barrel-aged beers at both locations. Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Sun., Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m.-noon. $20 for tasting glass and four coins; $5 for additional pours. Triple Rock Brewery, 1920 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2739. TripleRockBrewery.com.

[illegible] A bicycle tour of East Bay breweries, with tastings and rides with [illegible]. Sun., Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. $35. Tomer Brewery, 1484 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] With a [illegible] including [illegible] and blood orange [illegible] spaghetti and [illegible]. Call to RSVP. Tue., Feb. 14, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $45. [illegible], 4183 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Valentine's Event: A [illegible] With hot chocolate made by Cocoa [illegible] and [illegible] arrangements by John [illegible], Louisa [illegible], and [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 11, 5-7 p.m. [illegible] Gallery, 1807 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Wonderland [illegible] Canvas Underground presents a pop-up dinner [illegible] ingredients by [illegible] Flora Restaurant, [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], and more. [illegible] a private West Oakland [illegible]. RSVP. Fri., Feb. 10, 6:30-9:30 p.m. $88. [illegible].com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm [illegible] Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in [illegible] neighborhoods. [illegible], 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1463. BAHIAinc.com.

[illegible] Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Berkeley. 510-845-0100. [illegible]

Frances Albrier Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150. Ci.Berkeley.CA.US.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly [illegible] has 11 produce, prepared foods and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-1275. Oakland.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm and a youth-run prepared food booth [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-[illegible]. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Bouvar Farmers Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

[illegible] Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, Berkeley foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC accepted. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-250-7938. [illegible]. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Features seasonal produce, breads, fish, and other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked breads, pastries, cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. Ci.Berkeley.CA.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=2799.

Temescal Farmers' Market California-certified farmers offer seasonal produce, breads, fruits and nuts, free-ranch eggs, flower gallery, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, Berkeley foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St., off Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Youth-Led Fresh Stand Farmers' produce from regional market and [illegible] produce, along with [illegible] goods and nutrition-related [illegible]. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.org. ●

PICK

Valentine's Day Wine Tasting

Share in a romantic holiday early at Rock Wall Wines (2301 Monarch St., Alameda), where Viva Amore! Viva Wine! features wine, food pairing, photo shoots, and live entertainment on Friday, Feb. 10. Providing the edibles are Garden Variety Cheese, Bisou Maid Savory Company, Coco Tutti, Kind Bars, and other local purveyors. And being premiered at the event is Rock Wall's 2010 [illegible], a blend of Malbec, Mourvèdre, and Petite Verdot. 6 p.m. $25-$30. 510-522-5700 or RockWallWines.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

GOTHIC RENAISSANCE

Daniel Radcliffe and Hammer made for each other

By Kelly Vance

The Woman in Black gets all the details of a classic Hammer movie right.

Beyond being yet another example of the new year's fine crop of genre items, James Watkins' unrelentingly spooky *The Woman in Black* satisfies a moviegoer's curiosity about two conspicuous brand names. The first is actor Daniel Radcliffe, known perhaps unfairly throughout the world as Harry Potter for the past eleven years, and presumably anxious to break away from the gilded chains of that franchise to establish himself post-Harry.

The second brand is Hammer Films. The venerable British production company (founded in 1934) is most notorious for its superlative string of horror and mystery films from the late Fifties through the late Seventies, when the studio thrillingly revived the old Universal monster catalog — Frankenstein, Dracula, the Mummy, the Wolf Man — utilizing excellent production values, crisp direction, quality acting, lurid color, and the one-two punch of liberal bloodletting and sexy female victims.

Two actors in particular led the charge: hawk-faced, mild-mannered Peter Cushing and towering, magisterial Christopher Lee, who together played everything from Sherlock Holmes to Rasputin the Mad Monk until Hammer's spark fizzled sometime after the Hong Kong co-prod *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires*. But by then the company had long since entered legendary territory.

Vintage Hammer titles still wow audiences, and lately the resuscitated Hammer Film Productions has put its stamp on such memorable horror/thriller items as Matt Reeves' *Let Me In*. *The Woman in Black*, officially a Talisman Films production in association with Hammer, thus has two distinct sets of expectations — to prove that Radcliffe is no fluke and that Hammer Films is back with a vengeance. Right on both counts.

The outline is less than promising. Those who were hoping for a rest from the "scary ghost children" syndrome popularized so indelibly by *The Shining* way back in 1980 are destined to find no peace in the Northeast of England to which Arthur Kipps (Radcliffe) journeys. *The Woman in Black* concerns itself with dead babies, grieving parents, and almost nothing else. Mr. Kipps, a London solicitor in a permanent funk over the demise of his wife Stella (Sophie Stuckey, in flashback) while giving birth to their son Joseph (Misha Handley), is given a make-or-break assignment by his impatient boss at the law firm. He is to take the train to the village of Crythin Gifford to settle the affairs of one Alice Drablow, who reportedly passed away mysteriously while mourning the death of her young son. So there's a double helix going on.

The Woman in Black

Directed by James Watkins. With Daniel Radcliffe and Ciarán Hinds. Now playing.

Crythin Gifford is bleak, the townsfolk are surly, and the wonderfully named Eel Marsh House, the now-deserted country seat of the Drablows, is a spectacularly dismal pile atop a flood plain, reachable by road only at low tide, amidst funereal woods filled with gravestones and spirits of departed toddlers. We keep expecting to see Edward Gorey's signature in the corner of the screen. Not surprisingly, Kipps is obliged to work alone at the house, where his number-one occupation, aside from opening doors and discovering grisly objects, is fielding inquiries from the restless ghosts of Mrs. Drablow (Alisa Khazanova) and her lost Nathaniel (Ashley Foster), a drowning victim. Groaning walls and screams ensue aplenty.

Radcliffe is a natural for this sort of thing. His dark hair, earnest gaze, and thin face positively claim "gothic" in no uncertain terms. He looks right at home in Victorian clothing, and that Harry-Potter-versus-evil forthrightness shines through. But he's not the only booby in the batch. Local landowner Mr. Daily (haggard-faced Ciarán Hinds), the only villager sympathetic to Arthur, and his loony wife (Janet McTeer from *Albert Nobbs*) with her "twins" (a pair of coddled lapdogs) host the visiting gentleman on one or two abbreviated social occasions — Mrs. Daily is always going into convulsions. In common with everyone else in Crythin Gifford, the Dailys have recently lost a child. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, it's beginning to look like carelessness.

The screenplay was adapted by Jane Goldman — the fire-engine-red-haired scenarist of *Kick-Ass*, *The Debt*, and *X-Men: First Class* — from the original gothic novel by English author Susan Hill, which was already made into a movie once before, for TV in 1989. Writer Goldman evidently knows and respects the Hammer imprimatur, and so does director Watkins (he made the 2008 UK thriller *Eden Lake* with Michael Fassbender).

From the very first glimpses of Mr. Kipps' London street cloaked in yellowish soot, the film gets all the telltale nuances exactly right. The classic "Hammer tavern" into which Arthur ventures on his first night has that reassuring baked-in flavor. Every brick and cloak in the village looks thoroughly sodden in the never-ending mist. The house and grounds of Eel Marsh House don't spare the taxidermy and quickly darting shadows, natch, but they're used carefully for maximum effect instead of spraying us with non-stop gratuitous grotesquery. What an antidote to the hyperactive eye candy of Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes* series, the most recent competitor in the neo-Victoriana contest.

If Goldman's dialogue is unobtrusive and utilitarian — the film could function quite well as a silent — the scene-setting is as pervasive as a disease-bearing wetlands fog. Case in point: the "black mud pit" sequence in the final quarter, as Arthur, aided by Mr. Daily, literally dives into a foul bog of viscous slime one damp night trying to retrieve a vital bit of evidence. Watkins films it from angles Alfred Hitchcock would admire, with a complete absence of cheap camera whips and wasteful "shock" cuts.

Everything in the film announces Hammer, from the casting to the costumes and the mechanical toy props to the ugly mug of Keckwick the wagon driver (Daniel Cerqueira) and the haunted look on locked-up little Lucy Jerome (Aoife Doherty) — the small, seemingly throwaway details that come together to create a quality piece of genre entertainment. That's good news for fans of classic horror. And Radcliffe handles his sophomore outing with easy style. By the time he's finished we're ready to crown him the new Peter Cushing. If we could count on him to continue to work the fantasy/horror/thriller vein we'd be satisfied. He's well accustomed to fantastic premises and gloomy sets. But realistically, can a romantic drama be far behind? We shall see. In the meantime, *The Woman in Black* will shiver your timbers. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see On: Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island Colorful, undemanding, PG-rated boys-and-girls' [illegible] sends a teenage "Vernian" (Josh Hutcherson) and his companionable stepdad (Dwayne Johnson) in pursuit of Jules Verne's uncharted isle, where they face giant animals, [illegible], and the threat of young love — [illegible] Hudgens as the daughter of the [illegible] (Luis Guzmán). Guaranteed not to give anyone nightmares. Directed amiably by Brad Peyton from a screenplay by Brian and Mark Gunn, taken from a story they wrote with Richard Outten, [illegible] Jules Verne's classic novel. Added attraction [illegible] "Daffy's Rhapsody," an all-new 3D cartoon featuring Daffy Duck singing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 while dodging shotgun blasts from Elmer Fudd. [illegible] Mel Blanc, [illegible] by Matt O'Callaghan. (93 min.) (K.V.)

The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2012: Animated Uneven grab bag of five Oscar hopefuls includes at least two we [illegible] Joyce and [illegible] *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Lessmore*, a motion-capture, dialogue-free, pre-reading PSA made in Louisiana and set in and around New Orleans, follows the title character on a magic journey [illegible] books keep him forever young. *Wild Life* is a [illegible] mini-history of life on the Canadian prairie, seen wryly as the story of an Englishman who [illegible] in the wide open spaces. It's written and directed by Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby. (57 min.) (K.V.)

The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2012: Live Action Old Oskar gets a terminal diagnosis from his doctor: six days to live. He decides to spend his remaining time playing his tuba and machine-gunning [illegible], and is joined by Inger, a teenage volunteer "Death Angel" from a Christian group. Norwegian-style laughs ensue at Hallvar Witzø's *Tuba Atlantic*. Other winners in this five-film roundup: *Raju*, director Max Zähle's [illegible] of a German couple trying to adopt a boy in Kolkata, India; *The Shore*, a warm drama by writer-director Terry George, sends a man (Ciarán Hinds) [illegible] in Northern Ireland to reunite with his estranged [illegible]; and Andrew [illegible] *Time Freak*, in which a [illegible] finds that his time machine [illegible] problems than it solves. In general, this collection is [illegible] than the "Animated" 2012 batch. (98 min.) (K.V.)

The Vow [illegible] starring Rachel McAdams as an amnesiac and Channing Tatum as her husband. (104 min.)

ONGOING

The Adventures of Tintin 3D Steven Spielberg and Hergé's [illegible] comic-book [illegible] Tintin were made for each other. From the [illegible] sequence in actor Andy Serkis' [illegible] Captain Haddock to Tintin's spectacular Spielbergian aerial [illegible] the Arab town [illegible] collection, this [illegible] motion-capture-animated [illegible] of the youthful Belgian detective (Jamie Bell) and his dog Snowy not only captures the essence of Tintin's appeal but also the essence of what we know as the Spielberg artistic mandate. Tintin is a good-natured, [illegible], inquisitive, resourceful, gadget-crazy young man [illegible] a [illegible] of a job [illegible] in solving mysteries and setting things right all over the globe. That's Spielberg, in a [illegible]. If he's smart, the [illegible] will never, ever attempt a sequel to this yarn about the search for a [illegible] [illegible] as [illegible] Spielberg will ever again achieve. Screenplay adaptation by Steven Moffat, Edgar Wright, and Joe Cornish. Also with

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the voices of Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Cary Elwes, Toby Jones, Nick Frost, and [illegible]. (107 min.) (K.V.)

Albert Nobbs Glenn Close [illegible] as a [illegible] of her 1982 stage role as a woman passing for male on the job of a Dublin [illegible] hotel in the Victorian era [illegible] ingratiates herself [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] servant, Mr. Nobbs [illegible] her way and our sympathy as a lonely, quiet, [illegible] repressed person who finally sees a way to grasp happiness when another "secret fellow" comes into the picture: a rambling house painter named Hubert Page (Janet McTeer). Both actresses are excellent in a completely naturalistic way, and director Rodrigo García [illegible] the [illegible] completely light on its feet, with apt character roles for [illegible] Mia Wasikowska, Pauline Collins, Brendan Gleeson, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and Aaron Johnson. Close [illegible] collaborated on the screenplay, adapted with John Banville and Gabriella Prekop from an original short story by Irish author George Moore. Check full of [illegible] riches.

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RACHEL McADAMS

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THE VOW

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SONY

(113 min.) (K.V.)

The Artist [illegible] but cute. The [illegible] team of actor Jean Dujardin and writer-director Michel Hazanavicius (the OSS 117 spy spoof series) [illegible] a time machine ride back to 1920s Hollywood for the story of a vain silent-movie star (Dujardin) whose career ends with the coming of sound. Meanwhile, the girlfriend (Bérénice Bejo) [illegible] a dancer extra, [illegible] star. The [illegible] is that the [illegible] all of them, including supporting players John Goodman and James Cromwell [illegible] until the movie's final sound. It's [illegible] well, [illegible] Dujardin apparently doesn't speak English [illegible] we [illegible] in the scenario's resemblance to Sunset Boulevard, *A Star Is Born*, and *Singin' in the Rain*, there's nothing much original to hang onto except Dujardin's signature mugging. (100 min.) (K.V.)

Beauty and the Beast 3D In the venerable Disney tradition of *The Little Mermaid* comes a [illegible] animated retelling [illegible] now rereleased in 3D [illegible] of the French fairytale built around a [illegible] young woman, a brooding [illegible] beast and an enchanting castle full of [illegible] furniture. Songs, [illegible] animation [illegible] all are absolutely the finest money can buy [illegible] what was then a new era of [illegible] Disney quality. Robby Benson (as the Beast), Paige O'Hara (Belle), Angela Lansbury, and Jerry [illegible] British head [illegible], [illegible] by Gary [illegible] and Kirk Wise, with songs by the late Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. A marvelously beautiful fantasy. (84 min.) (K.V.)

Carnage Eighty minutes of entertaining bickering. Working in a suburban Paris soundstage [illegible] for a Brooklyn, New York apartment, director Roman Polanski [illegible] actors — Christoph Waltz, Kate Winslet, Jodie Foster, and John C. Reilly [illegible] trying their best to be civilized in settling a fight [illegible] their [illegible] adolescent sons. Naturally the grownups are more [illegible] than the kids [illegible] with Waltz and Foster earning the [illegible]. The screenplay was adapted by Polanski and French playwright Yasmina Reza from her stage play *God of Carnage*, and it displays the veteran director's [illegible] for ensemble pieces [illegible] spilling [illegible] and stepping on each other's toes. (80 min.) (K.V.)

Carol Channing: Larger Than Life Documentary [illegible] the life and work of the ninety-year-old theatrical legend. Directed by Dori Berinstein, written by Berinstein and Adam Zucker and featuring appearances by Channing, Phyllis Diller, Betty Garrett, Tippi Hedren, Angela Lansbury, Bob Mackie, [illegible] Reynolds, Lily Tomlin, Bruce Vilanch, [illegible] Walters, and many more. (87 min.)

Contraband New Orleans resident Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) is a [illegible] smuggler now trying to live the straight life. But because of a [illegible] and [illegible] house [illegible] to make the proverbial "one last run" to Panama for [illegible] counterfeit currency — or else [illegible] Chris' wife (Kate Beckinsale). What could this film [illegible] being the only [illegible] have been? The writing, mostly, especially the dialogue and some [illegible] situations. But we have to give credit to director Baltasar Kormákur [illegible] for his [illegible] use of [illegible] marine and construction-site settings. And the [illegible] is fairly decent. The screenplay is a [illegible] by Aaron Guzikowski of the Icelandic film *Reykjavik-Rotterdam*. Costarring [illegible] Foster and Diego Luna as [illegible] and J.K. Simmons as the [illegible] captain of the [illegible] ship. (110 min.) (K.V.)

A Dangerous Method [illegible] of a [illegible] David Cronenberg [illegible] with fully [illegible] screenwriter Christopher Hampton adapting his own play [illegible] John Kerr's book [illegible] the [illegible] between the fathers of psychoanalysis, Carl Gustav Jung (played by Michael Fassbender) and Sigmund Freud (Viggo Mortensen), circa 1904-1913. [illegible] Cronenberg's [illegible] with [illegible] Keira Knightley [illegible] What [illegible] was that [illegible] Cronenberg's [illegible] to spot, even though the [illegible] provide him with some [illegible] Sex and Death. Yup. And [illegible] When Sabina accuses Jung of being [illegible] count the [illegible] you hear [illegible] in the theater [illegible] many psychologists there are in the audience. (99 min.) (K.V.)

The Descendants A major triumph for both director Alexander Payne and actor George Clooney, who plays a well-off Honolulu businessman with big [illegible] to make after his [illegible] leaves his wife in a coma. The [illegible] of "back-up parent" Matt King (Clooney) and his daughters is of a piece with the humane, funny [illegible] Sideways, [illegible] Schmidt, and the rest of the Payne filmography. Like director Sturges, Payne [illegible] with individual Americans as he is with the [illegible] of being an American [illegible] expanded [illegible] Matt's native Hawaiian family background. Clooney turns in one of his [illegible] performances, maybe his [illegible] with [illegible] by Shailene Woodley and Amara Miller as the daughters. The [illegible] traditional Hawaiian music is also [illegible]. Screenplay by Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash, adapted from a novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings. Fine support [illegible] by Nick Krause, Beau Bridges, [illegible] and Robert Forster [illegible] (115 min.) (K.V.)

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close Oh the [illegible] Led by director Stephen Daldry aka Mr. Sunshine (*The Reader*, *Billy Elliot*), an emotionally [illegible] old New Yorker named Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn) [illegible] a quest to [illegible] the real meaning of his father's (Tom Hanks) death in the World Trade Center on 9/11 [illegible] and heavy-handed when it [illegible] to be heartbreaking and [illegible]. Oskar's [illegible] search [illegible] across the NY metro area, with [illegible] by Max von Sydow, [illegible] Viola Davis, and Jeffrey Wright as [illegible] sufferers [illegible] our skin through a [illegible] of [illegible] — but the [illegible] doesn't. [illegible]

[illegible] Safran Foer (novel) and Eric Roth (adaptation). (129 min.) (KV)

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo [illegible] David Fincher's English-language [illegible] of the first episode of the Stieg Larsson-penned Swedish trilogy about female avenger [illegible] [illegible] Rooney Mara [illegible] Daniel Craig (in the role of reporter Mikael Blomkvist) [illegible] Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgård, Yorick van Wageningen, and Joely Richardson as members of a creepy right-wing industrialist family. A well-made, sturdy [illegible] (158 min.) (KV)

The Grey [illegible] Alaskan [illegible] wilderness [illegible] Liam Neeson [illegible] Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo [illegible] Joe Carnahan's [illegible] The Way Back, Never Cry Wolf [illegible] White Fang [illegible] (117 min.) (KV)

Haywire [illegible] Gina Carano [illegible] international [illegible] Barcelona [illegible] Steven Soderbergh [illegible] Lem Dobbs [illegible] Ewan McGregor, Channing Tatum, Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas, Michael Fassbender, and [illegible] Bill Paxton [illegible] (93 min.) (KV)

The Help [illegible] Emma Stone [illegible] Tate Taylor [illegible] Kathryn Stockett [illegible] Bryce Dallas Howard, Viola Davis, and Octavia Spencer. (146 min.)

Hugo A Martin Scorsese children's movie, [illegible] Paris [illegible] Asa Butterfield [illegible] Papa Georges (Ben Kingsley) [illegible] Georges Méliès [illegible] 3D [illegible] Emily Mortimer [illegible] Sacha Baron Cohen [illegible] John Logan [illegible] Brian Selznick. (127 min.) (KV)

The Iron Lady [illegible] former UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher [illegible] Meryl Streep [illegible] Jim Broadbent [illegible] Phyllida Lloyd (Mamma Mia!) and screenwriter Abi Morgan (Shame, Brick Lane) [illegible] Streep [illegible] (105 min.) (KV)

Joyful Noise [illegible] Dolly Parton, Queen Latifah [illegible] congregations, and all the [illegible] But it's hard to [illegible] writer-director Todd Graff (Camp, Bandslam) [illegible] (118 min.) (KV)

Man on a Ledge [illegible] Sam Worthington, Ed Harris, and Jamie Bell. (102 min.)

Midnight in Paris Owen Wilson's [illegible] Woody Allen [illegible] Rachel McAdams [illegible] 1920s "Lost Generation" Paris [illegible] Kathy Bates (Gertrude Stein) and Adrien Brody [illegible] (94 min.) (KV)

Moneyball [illegible] Bennett Miller's [illegible] Billy Beane and the 2002 Oakland A's [illegible] Brad Pitt [illegible] Jonah Hill [illegible] Philip Seymour Hoffman [illegible] Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin [illegible] Stan Chervin [illegible] (133 min.) (KV)

The Muppets Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, Gonzo, the Swedish Chef, Animal [illegible] Jim Henson [illegible] Chris Cooper [illegible] From all appearances they're traditional-style [illegible] Amy Adams [illegible] Jason Segel [illegible] Mickey Rooney [illegible] Ken Jeong [illegible] (103 min.) (KV)

My Week With Marilyn [illegible] Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams) [illegible] Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) [illegible] The Prince and the Showgirl [illegible] Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne) [illegible] Judi Dench [illegible] Vivien Leigh [illegible] Dougray Scott as MM's playwright husband Arthur "She's devouring me" Miller. Directed dutifully by Simon Curtis. [illegible] (99 min.) (KV)

One for the Money Katherine Heigl [illegible] Julie Anne Robinson [illegible] Liz Brixius, Stacy Sherman, and Karen Ray from the Janet Evanovich novel of the same name. Also starring John Leguizamo and Debbie Reynolds.

Pina 3D [illegible] Pina Bausch [illegible] Tanztheater Wuppertal [illegible] Wim Wenders [illegible] [illegible] Recommended. (118 min.) (KV)

Red Tails George Lucas [illegible] Cuba Gooding Jr. [illegible] Terrence Howard [illegible] Anthony Hemingway directed. (125 min.) (D.S.)

A Separation [illegible] Nader (Peyman Moadi) [illegible] Alzheimer's [illegible] writer-director Asghar Farhadi [illegible] (123 min.) (KV)

Shame [illegible] Michael Fassbender (A Dangerous Method, X-Men: First Class) [illegible] director Steve McQueen [illegible] Brandon [illegible] Carey Mulligan [illegible] (99 min.) (KV)

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy All the ingredients come together in a [illegible] Cold War spy novel [illegible] 1973 [illegible] At the top of the [illegible]

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Event will be held on Monday night **February 13**. Discussion on the new calendar films and a collection of trailers before the feature. Following the film, attendees are invited to after party with the Bay Area's biggest, wildest, most elaborate burlesque and variety show **Hubba Hubba Revue** at the Uptown Club, 1928 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland. (must be 21+).

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CRAZY HORSE OPENS MARCH 2nd AT SHATTUCK CINEMAS
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from underplaying an quiet, woeful, ever botanist intelligence guru George Smiley [illegible] this after years of [illegible] overdoing it on Beethoven. Director [illegible] Sal Vehkos, Lee Harvey [illegible] He's [illegible] up by a dream cast of English [illegible] Colin Firth, John Hurt, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hardy, Toby Jones, Kathy Burke, Ciarán Hinds, and dependable villain Mark Strong [illegible] enough of pass [illegible] The screenplay adaptation, by Peter Straughan and the late Bridget O'Connor, is likewise a model of efficiency. Wrap it up with Swedish [illegible] director Tomas Alfredson's (*Let the Right One In*) [illegible] and it's one of the most intelligent espionage dramas since well, le Carré's own *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. [illegible] [illegible] (127 min.) (K.V.)

The Tree of Life [illegible] brings his [illegible] point of view (*Badlands*, *Days of* [illegible] lively ambitious than anything he's done [illegible] of the otherwise rhapsodic story of a [illegible] family of five in 1950s Texas (Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, and three juvenile actors) and what their lives mean in the grand scheme of things. The film has an [illegible] of Malick's trademark visual poetics, an [illegible] [illegible] That narrative [illegible] [illegible] jellyfish, cataclysms in [illegible] [illegible] That's a [illegible] Malick [illegible] [illegible] Sean Penn [illegible] in the shuffle. [illegible] despite the [illegible] (138 min.) (K.V.)

Underworld: Awakening The fourth film in the popular vampire saga, with Kate Beckinsale reprising her role as the vampire [illegible] Directed by Måns Mårlind and Björn Stein, written by Len Wiseman, John Hlavin, J. Michael Straczynski, and Allison Burnett, also starring Stephen Rea, Theo James, and Michael Ealy. (88 min.)

War Horse [illegible] a horse, and Steven Spielberg [illegible] Director Spielberg displays his best and worst tendencies [illegible] this gorgeous, [illegible] story. [illegible] The Horse That Won World War I. An English country lad [illegible] Albert Narracott (Jeremy Irvine) [illegible] [illegible] the horse sold to an army officer and shipped to France to help fight the Germans. So begins a [illegible] [illegible] of Spielberg's [illegible] action sequences (the cavalry charge, the No Man's Land [illegible] etc.) [illegible]

some of the [illegible] on a big screen since Louis B. Mayer died. The screenplay by Lee Hall and Richard Curtis [illegible] Morpurgo's novel [illegible] The acting, especially by [illegible] David Thewlis, Liam Cunningham, and Benedict Cumberbatch [illegible] Peter Mullan and Emily Watson [illegible] Albert's parents. The thing that [illegible] *War Horse* is Spielberg's unbridled [illegible] [illegible] It's a child's point of view [illegible] (146 min.) (K.V.)

We Bought a Zoo A [illegible] script by Aline Brosh McKenna (*Morning Glory*, *27 Dresses*) gets an impressive makeover from director Cameron Crowe (*Almost Famous*, *Jerry Maguire*) [illegible] a widower (Matt Damon) grieving after the death of his [illegible] [illegible] teenage son into a decrepit, small-town [illegible] park, where their broken family is healed and dad finds new love with the [illegible] zookeeper (Scarlett Johansson). The movie is quite expanded, though, [illegible] by Crowe's trademark sincerity and [illegible] handling of oddball character [illegible] Colin Firth, Patrick Fugit, Angus Macfadyen [illegible] and Johansson [illegible] [illegible] (124 min.) (J.J.)

We Need to Talk About Kevin Tilda Swinton at her [illegible] [illegible] Swinton [illegible] [illegible] through her nightmarish [illegible] Kevin [illegible] John C. Reilly, her [illegible] Her husband (John C. Reilly) her [illegible] [illegible] help whatsoever. The [illegible] Who's going to [illegible] [illegible] Eva's agony. The [illegible] Lynne Ramsay [illegible] Lionel Shriver [illegible] [illegible] (112 min.) (K.V.)

The Woman in Black [illegible] a young lawyer (played by Daniel Radcliffe of *Harry Potter*) [illegible] finds that the town is being terrorized by a ghost. Directed by James Watkins, adapted by Jane Goldman from the [illegible] novel of the same name, also starring Janet McTeer and Ciarán Hinds.

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Markopoulos: The Early Films [illegible] (1940-48) [illegible] The Supplant [illegible] and preceded by an introduction by [illegible] Gregory J. Markopoulos (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Hipsfic: Wilderness Backcountry Film [illegible] [illegible] Preceded by live music, a raffle, and food and beer for sale at 6 p.m. (U.C. Berkeley, 7:30)

The Philadelphia Story [illegible] (1940). Cerrito Classic. Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, El Cerrito, 1 p.m.)

[illegible] **The Universe** (100 min., 2007). [illegible] (UA Berkeley 7, 9:30)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The Trial of Joan of Arc (65 min., 1962). In French with English subtitles. Austere Perfectionism: the Films of Robert Bresson. (PFA, 7:00)

Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne (90 min., 1945). In French with English subtitles. Austere Perfectionism: the Films of Robert Bresson (PFA, 8:25)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Screenagers: 11th Annual Bay Area High School Film and Video Festival ([illegible] min. total running time, 2012). [illegible] the filmmakers in person. (PFA, 3:00)

Eros and Myth (87 min. total running time, 1958-65). Four short films. Preceded by an introduction by filmmaker Robert Beavers. Seconds of Eternity: The Films of Gregory J. Markopoulos (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 6:30)

Lancelot of the Lake (85 min., 1974). In French with English subtitles. Austere Perfectionism: the Films of Robert Bresson (PFA, 8:30)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (100 min., 1975). With a live performance by Bawdy Legal. (Landmark Albany Twin, Albany, midnight)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The Criminal Code (96 min., 1931). [illegible] The Measure of a Man (PFA, 5:30)

Viva Riva! (96 min., 2010). In Lingala, Portuguese and French with English subtitles. African Film Festival 2012 (PFA, 6:30)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Travelling Light (180 min., 2012). National Theatre Live (Cerrito, 7 p.m.)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Bringing Up Baby (102 min., 1938). [illegible] The Measure of a Man (PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Kongo: 50 Years of Independence of Kongo (51 min., 2011). In French and Lingala with English subtitles. African Film Festival 2012 (PFA, 7:00)

Chinatown 2011, A Documentary Preceded by potluck and social hour at 6:30 p.m. [illegible] (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

Travelling Light (180 min., 2012). National Theatre Live (Cerrito, 7 p.m.)

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WORST SLOW JAMS

Our staff picks the best music to kill a mood.

By Kathleen Richards, Ellen Cushing, Rachel Swan, and Will Butler

Slip Slidin' Away

Full disclosure: I've never felt the desire to put on music whilst getting it on. Something about a coitus soundtrack seems contrived and super awkward, like a scene in a sleazy Drew Barrymore rom-com movie or any movie. Now if music just *happens* to be on when the mood strikes, then ideally it would be something subtly suggestive, or at the very least minorly offensive, and definitely not blatantly cliché (see: George Michael, Marvin Gaye, etc.)

Erring on the safe side, perhaps something that's mid-tempo, lasts longer than three-and-a-half minutes, and instills in your to-be lover a hunch that you have excellent taste in music — like The Smiths' classic, "How Soon Is Now?", Echo & the Bunnymen's "Lips Like Sugar," or Darkthrone's "In the Shadow of the Horns." But avoid:

1. Anything from the Kidz Bop collection.
2. "Slip Slidin' Away" by Paul Simon.
3. "Miracles" by Insane Clown Posse. No matter how skilled you think you are, you are not "pure motherfucking magic."
4. Anything by Meshuggah. As enticing as the challenge of making whoopee to polyrhythmic sounds, the possibility of your boyfriend's eyes rolling back into his head and his lower jaw jutting out is too frightening for words.
5. The Lou Reed/Metallica collaboration *Lulu*, because nothing could kill a hard-on faster than Reed's stream-of-consciousness psychobabble, or anything involving Lars Ulrich.
6. "Regurgitated Lullaby for the Born Dead" by Beneath the Massacre. Also bad: "The Stench of Misery" and "Procreating the Infection."

Otherwise, you should be good.

— *K.R.*

Sorry, Dad

Because my father reads this paper cover-to-cover every week, I'll try to keep this as vague as humanly possible. (Hi Dad! Don't worry, I don't have sex! I don't even know what it is! I'm totally making this article up!) Anyway, like Kathleen, I've never really been one for surround-sound sexytimes, mostly because I like to be able to hear myself cry (JOKE).

Seriously, there's just so much that can go wrong — skipping, tangled cords, batteries running out, shuffle-related disasters, weird Pandora ads. But if you do choose to go with music, there's certainly a range. My best bet would be something languid, moody, evocative, and neither too fast or too slow — Zola Jesus springs to mind immediately, as does tUnE-yArDs, specifically "Powa," and you can never go wrong with jazz or old soul. That said, here are some fail-safe boner-killers:

1. "Here Comes the Bride," because it's too down tempo. Just kidding. BECAUSE IT'S CREEPY AS HELL.
2. "I Hate You So Much Right Now" by Kelis. (Hate-sex exempted.)
3. "The Bad Touch" by Bloodhound Gang.
4. Anything from the *Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter* soundtracks. Or, for that matter, anything by Weird Al Yankovic.
5. "Stan" by Eminem, because anyone who can get off on/to/during that song is probably someone you should be reporting to the authorities, not sleeping with.
6. Anything with a BPM over, say, 100, solely because of the risk of heart attack.
7. "Rub 'til It Bleeds" by PJ Harvey. Self-explanatory.

I'm really sorry, Dad.

— *E.C.*

Baby, Baby

A little ambient music need not be a bad thing, so long as you've already sealed the deal. (After all, the only thing worse than getting turned down is getting turned down with R. Kelly's "Half on a Baby" playing in the background.) But if you've already sealed the deal, it's okay to be literal.

Personally, I think J. Cole and Drake's "In the Morning" — which is all about hitting it in the morning — is a perfectly serviceable slow jam. And if you play it at night, you've shown an amazing gift for irony. Or a prophecy of things to come. And while most songs with the word "baby" in the title sound like an overreach, Smokey Robinson's "Ooh Baby Baby" is totally boss. (It worked in *Cooley High*, didn't it?) If you want to sound like a sophisticate, Art Blakey and Ella Fitzgerald both have killin' versions of "Gee Baby Ain't I Good to You," which is always a panty dropper. Here are a few to avoid:

1. "I Can't Make You Love Me." Bonnie Raitt did the original, and it's such a powerful torch song that Boyz II Men, Tank, Bon Iver, George Michael, and Adele all rushed to do cover versions of their own. But why presage doom?
2. "Statutory" by Lyfe Jennings. This might ostensibly be Jennings' concession to female empowerment, but the hook admonishes listeners to not be a booty call, and to "tell him that you're celibate." Kind of self-defeating, right?
3. Anything by Immortal Technique, because you'll feel like he's in the room with you.
4. "Wait (The Whisper Song)" by Ying Yang Twins. You'll have to convince your significant other that you don't mean it in a nefarious way.
5. "Bomba" by King Africa. Excellent dance song. Not so great for "un movimiento sexy."

— *R.S.*

Rev Your Bro-Motor

Insane Clown Posse is not welcome in the bedroom.

As a general rule, instrumental music is the safest choice in the bedroom. There are a few exceptions — baby-making aids such as D'Angelo and R. Kelly can be used (with purpose and caution) — but really smooth, silky voices are few and far between. Going "Hard in Da Paint" to the sound of Waka Flocka Flame making machine gun noises, for instance, is not the hottest way to bring honey to the hive.

I'd prefer soundtracks from a whole roster of LA beatmakers. Put on Flying Lotus' *Cosmogramma* and work on your own big bang theory. Or if you're a little lazy in the sack, shuffle on to the sounds of Shlohmo (his new *Vacation EP* should steer you into titillating territory). If this is all just way too alt for you, though, forget it then — rev your bro-motor, rip off your Wranglers, and throw on Blitzen Trapper's "Love U."

If you try all that and still can't get frisky, you might just need to get yourself arrested. Here's a short list of what to absolutely stay away from, though:

1. "Gnashville" by Why? *All the last damn rivers have gone dry and practicing your piano wreck face?* Nooo.
2. "We Go Dumb Out Here in the Bay" by Mistah FAB. Between the truncated beat and FAB's conceit *that's hot, and I'm not*, it's just not the kind of trunk slappin' you want to be doing.
3. "Old Man" by Neil Young. This song induces any number of bodily functions, none of them being remotely related to getting your rocks off. Banjo solo?
4. "Bucephalus Bouncing Ball" by Aphex Twin. An exception to the instrumental music rule — unless you're some sort of bionic powerhouse, try "Windowlicker" instead.
5. "Help!" by The Beatles. This is just a reminder that *not every Beatles song is appropriate for every occasion*. If you must go that route, at least pick some late-career Beatles or even obscure solo projects: anything that doesn't make you want to snap your fingers along.

Keep a moderate BPM (beats per minute) — between about 80 and 130. If that means putting an old school metronome on your nightstand, so be it!

— *W.B.*

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COULD BMI LIVE HELP LOCAL MUSICIANS GET PAID?

The service aims to pay musicians royalties for playing live, but could it be too good to be true?

By Kathleen Richards

A year ago, the music licensing giant BMI launched a new endeavor called BMI Live, which allows songwriters to register for free and get paid royalties for their live performance (as far back as six months prior). Yet few musicians seem to know about the program.

BMI Director of Corporate Communications Ari Surdoval said the company is trying to spread the word about BMI Live to bands and encourage them to sign up. Musicians enter their show information online (or through an iPhone app) and royalties are distributed quarterly. According to Surdoval, the amount of royalties depends on various factors such as the venue, how many songs performed were written by you, and if you're the sole songwriter. "We had people who made thousands of dollars last year," he said.

So what's the catch? And what's in it for BMI? Surdoval says, in effect, nothing. The not-for-profit company is only trying to pay hardworking songwriters their due. (Songwriters, however, cannot be registered with another licensing company and must show proof of termination of their contract.) Last year, he said, BMI paid out just shy of $800 million in royalties to its registered artists, an increase from the year prior. Among those: John Doe, Cat Power, Jesse Malin, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, The Cramps, Gillian Welch, and Todd Snyder. Most of their registered songwriters, however, he said, are not household names.

"IT'S MESSED UP BECAUSE IT'S DONE IN THE NAMES OF ARTISTS THAT USUALLY ARE LEGITIMATELY STRUGGLING, BUT FOR THE BENEFIT (MOSTLY) OF BMI AND ARTISTS THAT DON'T REALLY NEED IT."

But local musician Cuong Neutron (Replicator, Victory and Associates) holds a far more skeptical view of music licensing companies like BMI and ASCAP. Neutron says he has been registered for ASCAP for about ten years. Occasionally, he'll get $5 for royalties from his band Replicator, he said. Twenty bucks was the most he ever made in a year. "It's total horse shit, because I know for a fact we get played in a couple movies and low-rent TV shows and such, but it's like trying to grab grains of sand fighting for it. Who has the time or interest in chasing after $20?"

When informed of the concept of BMI Live, Neutron sounded optimistic at first, but then saw the program as a potential way for BMI to use the service as leads for venues operating without proper licensing. "Listing an underground venue or all-ages space that operates below the radar is the functional equivalent of giving their name and address to the mob. It's messed up, and it's messed up because it's done in the names of artists that usually are legitimately struggling, but for the benefit (mostly) of BMI and artists that don't really need it. And in the process, BMI's shakedown artists have their detective work done for them for new venues and performance spaces to shake down."

As we've previously reported, underground venues have been hugely instrumental to developing a strong local music scene in the East Bay, and most probably can't afford licensing fees. At the same time, musicians might collect more royalties if more venues were properly licensed.

According to BMI's own stats, signing up with BMI doesn't sound terribly lucrative at this point. Its website says more than 500,000 songwriters are registered with them (and Surdoval said 40,000 to 50,000 new songwriters sign up every year). Eight hundred million dollars distributed evenly among 500,000 songwriters is $1,600 per year (and that's a generous estimate). With big-name acts like Lady Gaga and Celine Dion on BMI's roster, it's safe to say that they're getting much more than the average. Which appears to leave little for the independent musician.

Despite his misgivings, Neutron said he may sign up for BMI Live anyway. "But [I would] only put the venues that are already known to BMI — no weird funky art spaces or house shows, no small bars that put on the odd show. Just legit, totally above-board venues that make you fill out tax information and such.

"It's a damn shame, because considering how little bands actually get paid locally and on tour, this could be a valuable tool," Neutron continued, "but the cynic in me says this will help BMI far more than it would help Victory and Associates." ●

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TREVOR DUNN WITHOUT AMPLIFICATION

Ex-Mr. Bungle bassist returned to Oakland for another intense underplay

By Rachel Swan

A warehouse or gallery show is a huge underplay for bassist Trevor Dunn, who is known for his work with John Zorn and the experimental band Mr. Bungle. But that's the type of venue he prefers when touring the Bay Area. Last year he packed 1510 8th Street in West Oakland, playing with the avant jazz band Endangered Blood — most of the audience members were fellow jazz musicians who'd heard about the event by word of mouth. Last week he appeared at the Luggage Store Gallery in San Francisco and The Totally Intense Fractal Mindgaze Hut in Oakland. This time he'd brought only a stand-up bass, a bow and a lot of resin, and he planned to regale the audience with twenty minutes of uninterrupted playing. It was a pretty dicey proposition.

Dunn is one of the few musicians who could actually make it work. Positioned as the opening act on a bill that also featured saxophonist Travis Laplante and indie band Silian Rail, he started the show about forty minutes late, which was just enough time for everyone to finish drinking their beer. The Mindgaze Hut, which has become known for its electricity-free shows that often include a guy spinning records on a Victrola, had an awkward, faux-cocktail party atmosphere that night. Forty-four-year-old Dunn stood in the living room looking small and rangy and unassuming.

Close to 10 p.m. the lights went out and Dunn picked up his bass. He began playing a composition called "Pentagram." The piece is through-composed, Dunn says, but to an observer it might sound improvised — partly because he obscures the time. He'll never start with a simple riff or ostinato; he prefers to zig-zag along the instrument. By doing pizzicato lines with his fingers and grinding a bow along the bridge of the bass, he was able to create the illusion of three voices — or a melody with two things scraping in the background. Dunn didn't use any amplification, but his music was dense enough to fill the room and overpower the audience. One thing that stood out that night was the conspicuous absence of cellphones; it seemed that everybody was either perplexed by the performance, or totally besotted.

"Pentagram" ran for a half hour with no rest or pause, and its lack of hooks made the piece difficult to latch onto. That said, it was still a potent piece. The show's host, Robert Lopez, said that, given the circumstances, it was amazing that Dunn held the audience for that long. "No, he was not amplified. That's pretty gnarly since there were about seventy people in my living room," Lopez said later. Even gnarlier was the end of the performance: Dunn dug his bow into the bass and let the last note hover there. About twenty seconds passed — long enough for the silence to feel uncomfortable. Then the crowd burst into applause. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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FRI 2/10 @ 9pm — Broun Fellinis. $5 cover
SAT 2/11 @ 9pm — DJ Lady Ryan 5-10 sliding scale
TUES 2/14 @ 8pm — The Brewing Co. featuring Clifford Brown III
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Mon. Feb 13 — Richie Beirach & Laurie Antonioli
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Sat-Sun. Feb 18-19 — Kenny Lattimore
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Mon-Wed. Feb 20-22 — Keith Sweat

Oakland
Wed. Feb 8 — Los Train Wreck
Thurs. Feb 9 — Poplyfe
Fri-Sun. Feb 10-12 — Valentine's Weekend with The Manhattan Transfer
Tues. Feb 14 — Ronnie Laws & Tom Browne Supergroup
Wed. Feb 15 — The Benny Green Trio feat. Peter Washington & Kenny Washington
Thurs. Feb 16 — Bob James Duo feat. Howard Paul
Fri-Sun. Feb 17-19 — Poncho Sanchez Latin Band feat. Terence Blanchard
Mon. Feb 20 — Chris Cain
Thurs. Feb 23 — Henry Clement & The Gumbo Band
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Ruthie Foster
Tuck & Patti
Hugh Masekela

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RUTHIE FOSTER
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EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Sonically messy swag, a personal stamp on gospel, and contemplative gangsta rap

Lil B

White Flame

Anyone even passingly familiar with Brandon McCartney shouldn't be disappointed with *White Flame*. In more ways than not, this 21-track mixtape is par for the course: an erratic beat selection and rhymes that make as little sense on wax as they do on paper (e.g., *I set a great example/Girls love my penis* — huh?). By tape's end, you feel delirious, as if you've just inhaled an air of asphyxiating toxins.

As an immersive experience, *White Flame* can be fascinating as a hip-hop album, though it's somewhat ill-considered. The problem remains that Lil B is an unpolished rapper and melodicist. Because he has no sense of timing and no flow to speak of, even the more listenable durations of *White Flame* basically amount to a slam poetry reading.

In his defense, the Based God has never waffled on his commitment to sonic messiness — 2011's *I'm Gay* was the most free-form hip-hop album in years — and *White Flame* is just outlandish enough to work. The pop-culture trash-out "Based God Fucked My Bitches" even recycles a vintage Daft Punk song in perhaps the most shameless genre-crossing clusterfuck since Girl Talk.

He channels Prince (the "I Will Die 4 U"-sampling "Fed Time") and Mannie Fresh ("I'm False") to mixed results, but fares nicely over original beats like "Tank of Propane" and "Les Miserable." It's still unclear whether or not Lil B can muster enough self-discipline to record *I'm Gay*'s proper follow-up. In the meantime, the alternately preposterous and revelatory *White Flame* should certainly tide you over. (self-released)

— M.T. Richards

Ruthie Foster

Let It Burn

The self-penned "Lord Remember Me" is the only church song on Ruthie Foster's *Let It Burn*, but gospel music is never far from the surface of the dozen other performances on the Texas vocalist's most eclectic release to date. The presence of the Blind Boys of Alabama, whose quartet harmonies buoy Foster's resonant contralto on that and three more numbers, especially helps bring that element to the fore, of course. She also is joined by vocalist William Bell for a duet reprise of his 1961 hit "You Don't Miss Your Water."

Foster draws on a wide variety of material, including Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain," Los Lobos' "This Time," The Black Keys' "Everlasting Light," The Band's "It Makes No Difference," the Johnny Cash hit "Ring of Fire," an a cappella treatment of the traditional "The Titanic" with the Blind Boys, and a sensual Roberta Flack-like reading of John Martyn's "Don't Want to Know." New Orleans saxophonist James Rivers' interpolation of the opening lines from Nat Adderley's "Work Song" into the singer's down-tempo reworking of Pete Seeger and Lee Hays' "If I Had A Hammer" is cleverly appropriate. Foster's ability to move so effortlessly between moods — from tender to fierce — and to place a personal stamp on so many different types of songs marks her as one of the most remarkable American song stylists performing today. (Blue Corn Music)

— Lee Hildebrand

At the Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Feb. 9. 8 p.m. $20. GAMH.com

Schoolboy Q

Habits & Contradictions

A few things about *Habits & Contradictions* that are, initially, turnoffs: First, Schoolboy Q is coarse — more so than many other contemporary gangsta rappers. His flow is abrasive, his content graphic, and his disposition entirely unapologetic. For examples, consult "Nightmare on Figg St."

Or take a line from the drug-dazed "Oxy Music," Q describes the scene: *Blood on the wall/Death in the air/Birds on the ground/Pistols everywhere/Devils in the eyes/Babies always cry/Papa never home/Fuck it for all alone*. It's a tame song by his standards, but the album's confessional and instructional nature — combined with the knowledge that he does, in fact, have a young daughter — is enough to make you shudder.

So what makes this one of the best rap albums in months? Well, there's another side to Q's coin. He's contemplative, consistently funny, and tremendously loyal. Unrepentant, explicit references to hard drugs and retributive violence are the fabric of *Habits & Contradictions*, but it's the glimpses at his inner character that make those escapades endurable, and even gripping.

Some album highlights: "There He Go," in which Q patents his personal flavor of swag; "Hands on the Wheel," the closest thing to a party track (aided by the charisma of ASAP Rocky and an infectious Kid Cudi cover); "Raymond 1969," an eerie Portishead adaptation; "Grooveline Pt. 1," Q's hilarious attempt at a slow jam (with an unlikely cameo from Curren$y, who's a bit of a vocal analogue to Q); "Gangsta In Designer," in which Q enforces his devil-may-care outlook; and "Blessed," featuring Q's close friend and collaborator Kendrick Lamar, who caps the album with a relieving breath of fresh air. (Top Dawg)

— Will Butler

LOCAL LICKS

Bart Davenport

Someone2Dance

Bart Davenport has mastered the art of repackaging nostalgia. Most of his songs poach old styles from soul, electric folk, or psychedelic garage, but are modernized by cleaner drumming and glossier production. His new seven-inch is exactly that: its backbeat-driven title track could have graced radio in 1976. (Antenna Farm Records)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Friday, Feb. 17. 9 p.m. $10

Lila Rose

Heart Machine

It seems that Lila Rose makes her melodies as simple as possible because she's conscious of her voice being the main thing — she stacks the harmonies pretty heavily to provide the sense of a vocal wafting through a pipe organ. The music is a thick, murky, minor-chord ooze. (self-released)

At The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Saturday, Feb. 18. 9 p.m. $10, $15.

The Saint James Society

The Saint James Society EP

Long, swelling, distorted guitar riffs and tambourine beats characterize what The Saint James Society calls "Pentecostal desert rock," essentially garage music that manages to sound soggy and dry at the same time. "The Ballad of the White Horse" has a cool, hooky bridge, and Brandon Burkart's tremolo voice helps shape the music even during rambling guitar solos. (Tee Pee)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Friday, Feb. 10. 9 p.m. $12

Con Brio

The Bay Is Burning

Recorded at Great American Music Hall, this album reveals how potent Con Brio is live, with its plump horns and bluesy organ. Xandra Corpora's half-shouted, guttural vocals befit a large funk ensemble. The music has moments of insight and flair, such as the horn breakdown on "Glass Manifesto." (self-released)

At The Independent (628 Divisadero St.) on Saturday, Feb. 11. 9 p.m. $15, $18. ■

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 9

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Larry Dibble & DeMarco Brehm Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50

Spirit Vibrations with Toy Televisions, The Goldiggers, and The Silver Threads, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Midget Trio Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m.

Doc Dibble Dinner jazz with guest [illegible] singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Skip Wanderman with [illegible] Rhine's Lighthouse, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Hour Banks music covers of [illegible], oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Craig Brehm [illegible] 8 & 10 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

[illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Don Carlos with Lloyd Brown, The Independent, 9 p.m., $28

[illegible]

Flamenco Thursdays Flamenco music & dancing with [illegible] Stephanie Valente, Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12

FRIDAY 10

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Bee Colors with [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50

[illegible] Cultural Works, 7:30 p.m., $15-$20

Gospel & Vocal

Girlfriends [illegible] Piano Company, 8 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

DeMarco DeMarco Jazz Quartet [illegible] 8 p.m., $15-$12

Doc Dibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Jupiter, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Jupiter, 9 p.m., free

Valentine's Umbrella with The Manhattan Transfer Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $35-$45

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

Ko-[illegible] Continental Club, 9 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Caladera [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $15

[illegible] 9:30 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

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[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] 9:30 p.m., $15

SATURDAY 11

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

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DJ [illegible] & DJ [illegible]

SUN FEB 12 - ANTHONY GREEN - SOLD OUT!

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TINY TELEVISION

SAT FEB 18 - $25 ADV/$25 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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UNCLE FRANK & THE CO-DEFENDANTS

SUN FEB 19 - $16 ADV/$16 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
BUCK 65
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[illegible]

MON FEB 20 - $16 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 7:30
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THURS FEB 23 - $13 ADV/$15 DOOR - DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
RED BARAAT

FRI FEB 24 - $21 ADV/$23 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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THURS FEB 9 - $21 ADV/$23 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
[illegible]
DUTHIE FOSTER
PAUL THORN

FRI FEB 10 - $21 ADV/$21 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
LOS CAMPESINOS!
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Gibson

PICKS

YOB

When YOB — the Seattle metal trio known for its gargantuan, brain-massaging riffs — comes to town on the night that happens to be Valentine's Day, what is a promoter to do? Bill the show as "Nothing Says I Love You Like Doom," of course. I realize I am part of the 00.000001 percent of women who would actually believe that statement. For the rest of you hoping to avoid a catastrophic evening with your significant other, your best bet is to start your night off with a very fancy meal at a very fancy restaurant (ideally in the Uptown area) accompanied by very fancy gifts, and then tell your date you'd like to "stop by" The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) for a "bit" and "just check out" a band that you hear is cool (you'll pay!). Then, with any luck, the face-melting riffs of Black Cobra will stun your date into realizing what amazing taste you have, and YOB will seal the deal. At the end, hopefully everyone will go home happy. 8 p.m., $20-$25. TheNewParish.com — *Kathleen Richards*

The John Brothers

The term "[illegible]" is reserved for those who play frequently, practice often, and usually [illegible] very little. But the [illegible] up The John Brothers Piano Company exceed this simple classification by vast stretches. They perform for hours on end, they practice constantly, they lug a piano around with them. The traveling pianists (who aren't actually brothers) have made a name for themselves playing Bay Area transportation hubs where they stamp transient audiences with their showmanship, folding together the intrigue of romantic composition and the panache of ragtime. John Thatcher Boomer and John Morgan can rip through original pieces on their tattered upright for a full day given good weather and enough stimulants. Their ivory tickling also makes a perfect lounge soundtrack, and it's a rare occasion that they bring their dramatic show to a proper venue. Supplemented as of late by new touches, such as Boomer's skill on the clarinet, the two take turns, dueling and one-upping one another while simultaneously complementing each other's individual style. At Vitus (901 Broadway, Oakland) on Sunday, Feb. 12, 5 p.m., $5. VitusOakland.com — *Will Butler*

Estelle

If your only exposure to Estelle was her (amazing) 2008 Kanye collabo "American Boy," that's a start, but it's also kind of like saying you only know Rick James because MC Hammer sampled "Super Freak," or Kesha because she sang the hook on Flo Rida's ubiquitous hit "Right Round." Okay, that last one was a bad example, but still: This British singer's got an impressive, vastly underrated catalog [illegible] — one which displays a preternatural ability to float between genres (mostly hip-hop, pop, R&B, reggae, and rap, often in the space of a single song), and which comes across as a sharper, spikier antidote to her better-known British peer Adele. Live, she's said to be electric, playful, and legendarily [illegible]: see for yourself at the New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. $27-$35. TheNewParish.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Broun Fellinis

It's sort of such a backhanded compliment to say that a band "defies expectations," but in the case of local experimental jazz trio Broun Fellinis, it's simply an appropriate descriptor. Formed in 1991, the band has weathered all kinds of changes in pop culture and taste — including the renaissance and decline of acid jazz, art rock-influenced jam bands. Yet the individual talents of drummer Kevin Carnes, electric bassist Kirk Peterson, and saxophonist David Boyce have given the band real staying power. Their music flirts with many genres, incorporating through-composed material with freewheeling stuff, occasionally uses processors in loops but always sounds raw and often privileges moods over notes. The Fellinis have kept a fervent following for twenty years now and they're still an absolute treat to witness live. They play at Disco Volante (347 14th St., Oakland) on Friday, Feb. 10, 9 p.m., free. DiscoVolanteOakland.com — *Rachel Swan*

Baroque, St. John's Presbyterian Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $12-$15.

Experimental & Avant Garde

Larry Polansky Mills College contemporary music. Mills College Concert Hall, 8 p.m., $15, $10.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The [illegible] Trio Black History Month celebration. Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $15, $12.
Expandable Too [illegible], 9 p.m., free.
Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free.
Larry [illegible] Trio Raphael's [illegible] Cafe and Espresso Bar, 6 p.m., free.
Red [illegible] dinner jazz with guest, rotating singers. The Alley, 9 p.m., free.
Tango No. 9 Piedmont Metro Company, 9 p.m., $15.
Valentine's Weekend with The Regiment, Transfer Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $35-$49.

Kids

Los Amigables de La Peña Children's show with [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $8, kids $5.

Rock & Pop

Abject with [illegible], Night, and [illegible]. Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m.
[illegible] Tape with [illegible] and The Thorns. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $10-$13.
Chuck Dukowski Sextet with Electric Chair Revue Co. and Echolocation. Vitus, 9 p.m., $5.
[illegible] [illegible] classics, blues, jazz, & pop. Peter's Restaurant, 5 p.m., free.
D.L. with The Loon and [illegible]. [illegible]. The Uptown, 9 p.m., $12.
Jonah Matranga with [illegible], The Campbell Apartment, and El [illegible]. Stork Club, 8 p.m., $6.
[illegible] with Vic Ruggiero. 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 3 p.m., $6.
Social Distortion with Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls, and Shakes. Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $32.50.
[illegible] with The [illegible], Status Corpse, Side Kick, Oakland Your Youth, and [illegible] Carnival. 924 Gilman, 7 p.m., $12.
Lil John Roth with Tony [illegible], Lenore, and Planetal. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7:30 p.m., $12.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Shop with Karma Dealer and the [illegible]. Starry Plough, 7:30 p.m., $7-$10.
[illegible] Tommy's [illegible], 8 p.m., free.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Anuradha Sridhar Carnatic violin concert, [illegible], 7 p.m., $10.
Jai Uttal Kirtan [illegible] Grand Lake, 8 p.m., $25, $35.
Reggae Gold The New Parish, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Hootenanny Night Cafe International, 7 p.m., free.

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FEBRUARY 11

DRUGS
S.I.N.
Hit the Lights
FEBRUARY 12

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FEBRUARY 17

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BLACK BANANAS
FEBRUARY 23

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MARCH 1

ANDREW W.K.
MARCH 6

FEED ME WITH TEETH
MARCH 16

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C&C

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

SUNDAY 12

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible]

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

[illegible]

C&C

4 p.m. free

Jazzschool Presents: [illegible] featuring [illegible], Kenny [illegible], Mark Levine, Jeff Chambers, and [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 4 p.m. $20.50, $22.50

[illegible] Jazz [illegible], classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 p.m. free

[illegible] with [illegible], 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 5 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible], 4 p.m.

The [illegible] Trio [illegible] Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m. free

[illegible] Trio [illegible] Restaurant, 6:30-9 p.m. free

[illegible]'s [illegible] with The Manhattan Transfer Yoshi's Oakland, [illegible] p.m., $35-$45

Kids

Silly Sundays [illegible] 3 p.m. $4, $6

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] [illegible], 7:30 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] singing love songs of [illegible], Piedmont Piano Company. 4 p.m. $[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Brazilian Exotic Project featuring [illegible], [illegible], 4 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] and the [illegible], Thee Parkside. 4 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible], 4 p.m. $15

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 4 p.m.-midnight, $5

Terry [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5-9 p.m., free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel [illegible] with [illegible] & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $30 [illegible] brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Sunday [illegible], [illegible], 6 p.m. $20-$30 [illegible] and show

[illegible] [illegible], 4:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] & Friends featuring [illegible], Sam [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible] Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m. $7

Rock & Pop

Anthony [illegible] with The [illegible] and Kay Kay & His Weathered Underground, Slim's, 7:30 p.m. $17

[illegible] with [illegible] & [illegible] and [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $7

O.R.G.A.S. with [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $15

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible], 5 p.m. $10

Jennifer [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $10, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Superbooglie with Bobby Young, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., free

MONDAY 13

EAST BAY

All Ages

27th [illegible] [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, [illegible], 2 p.m., $22-$85

[illegible] Tango Argentine tango, Cafe Trieste, 7-9 p.m., free

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Quartet with [illegible] and the [illegible] Band, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50

"Uptown [illegible]" live burlesque with Hubba Hubba Revue, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Albany High Jazz and R&B Ensembles Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $20

[illegible]'s Pre-Valentine's Day [illegible] with [illegible], Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

La [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible], [illegible], 4 p.m. $8

TUESDAY 14

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 p.m. free

Utah, [illegible] Anti-Valentine's [illegible] & [illegible] Beer Night, Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Restaurant, 7:30-9 p.m., free

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

1015 Folsom 1015 Folsom St., 415-431-1200

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna St., 415-974-1719

222 Hyde 222 Hyde St. 415-440-0222

330 Ritch 330 Ritch St. 415-541-9574

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-431-1200

Amnesia 853 Valencia St. 415-970-0012

Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St. 415-831-1200

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-771-1016

[illegible] & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-[illegible]

Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620

Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

[illegible] 2799 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave 415-474-0365

Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583

Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St. 415-673-8000

Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-621-4455

Brick & Mortar Music Hall 1710 Mission St. 415-800-8782

[illegible]'s [illegible] Mission St., 415-[illegible]

Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016

Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-552-7390

[illegible] [illegible] Vallejo St., 415-[illegible]

Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332

The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] 614 [illegible] St. 415-421-4222

[illegible] 80 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000

DNA Lounge 375 11th St. 415-626-1409

Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

[illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-437-6040

El Rio 3158 Mission St. 415-282-3325

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788

The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000

Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750

Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923

Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400

Hotel Utah 500 4th St. 415-546-6300

The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421

Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173

Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777

Kimo's 1351 Polk St. 415-885-4535

The Knockout 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994

[illegible] Lounge 500 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880

Mighty 119 Utah St. 415-762-0151

Milk Bar 1840 Haight St. 415-387-6455

The [illegible] [illegible] Powell Ave. 415-[illegible]

Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238

Park Chalet Coastal Beer Garden 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

Peña Pachamama 1630 Powell St. 415-646-0018

Public Works 161 Erie St. 415-932-0955

Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695

The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave. 888-929-7849

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011

Rock-It Room 406 Clement St. 415-387-6344

Rrazz Room 222 Mason St. 415-394-1189

Ruby Skye 420 Mason St., 415-693-0777

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275

Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-[illegible]

Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294

Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333

SOM Bar 2925 16th St. 415-558-8521

Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286

[illegible] Bar 399 9th St., 415-863-6623

Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St. 415-255-7227

Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900

Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292

Temple 540 Howard St. 415-978-9942

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-[illegible]

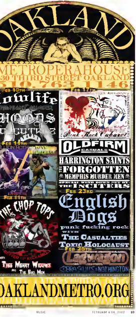
Top of the Mark 999 California St., 415-[illegible]

Tunnel Top 601 Bush St. 415-986-8900

[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-[illegible]

The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600



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C&C

Tuesday Night Live Music This week: Agent Moe, Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Brewing Co. featuring Klezmic Brown 30 Cases Volante, 8 p.m. free
Eddie Pasternak Duo with Blue Bottle, Cafe Rouge, 8:30 p.m. free
Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 8 p.m. free
The Ubble brown jazz with guest Browse singers, The Alley, 9 p.m. free
Valentine's Day with Rhonda Lane with Tom Browne Supergroup Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $5 $20
Valentine's Day with Debbie Lane with Tom Browne Supergroup Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $25 $20

Funk & Pop

Lenny Kravitz with Raphael Saadiq, Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $45-$52.50
Las Hondanitas with Thunderbeaters, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5
"Nothing Says I Love You Like Doom" featuring Vdb, Black Cobra, and WALKEN, The New Parish, 8 p.m. $10 $13

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Bike Tombs spoken word event with comedy and T.B., Dorsey's Locker, 7 p.m., free
Innerspace Jupiter, 9 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Oblala with guest percussionist Paulhasi Ahluwalia, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50 $22.50

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Sleepy Jones Verdi Club, 8:30 p.m. $10

Blues, Folk & Country

The California Honeydrops with The Lonesome Venus, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $15
Valentine's Day with Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dinnerbell Betty and her Subterraneans, with live music by Parangique Blue Room, 9 p.m., $10

Olaga's Umbrella Park Chalet Brewery, 8:30 p.m. free
The Bramble Wholeblues with Willy Tea Taylor, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m. $8
Kacey Johansing with The Range of Light Wilderness, Alex Bramble (Dodofo) and Lil Serene Rob, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $10 $12
Major Lovers and the Lo-Fi Symphony with Ashton, Dot Punto, with MC Jenny Moonbeam, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. $5
Point of View with Hear The Sirens and Setup Kid, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $8
Valentine's Party featuring DJ I.S., Lin Roth, and DJ PindPod, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Guy Fox Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Groundation with DJ Jacques (KALX), The Independent, 9 p.m. $24, $20

WEDNESDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Skyloggrass Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50 $22.50
Whiskey Bramble old-time and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 8 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Jeremy Brown Trio featuring Mark Washington and Kevin Washington, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $18
Bob Evans & the Sweet Band Rooster's Roadhouse, 8-10 p.m. free
Jazz Theory Performance Class with Cori Bomba 57th Street Gallery, 6-8 p.m.
Dee Brown dinner gig with guest Oakland singers, The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Funk & Pop

Zomba with Eat Timbers, Subterranean Arthouse, 8:30 p.m., $10
The Adamecs with Marlyn, Hemi Creatures, Doctor Shepherd and OUTLAW, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5
KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Gig Tiki! This week: Big Red Beaver, Protest featuring Bomba with Bramble Cabin, The Uptown, 9:30 p.m., free
Peacock Vlas, 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Caribbean Night with Reggae Rush and TJ Mendrik, Dorsey's Locker, 7-11 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

"Hump Day Bluegrass" featuring The Tomalovers, Windy Hill, Snap Peaswak & The Better Tin Music Players, and Bayonet Valentine String Band, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $13 $15
Todd Wolfe Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Peacock and the Bombo Bombo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10
Dialektikom with Cornelius & Michael Abraham, Amnesia, 7 p.m.
Aleatis with the Mitch Marcus Sextet, Amnesia, 9 p.m., free

Funk & Pop

The Valentine Galaxy Tour with Voodoorex, The Independent, 8 p.m. $25
The Music Honeys with The Tomorrow Man, The Chuckleberries with DJ Sal Presley, Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $7
The Music Honeys with The Tomorrow Man, The Chuckleberries and DJ Sal Presley, Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $7
Daniel Valentine and the Street Lakes with Kelly McFarling and Goodnight Texas, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $5-$8
Bonobo with Floating Eyelids, Aleon Engine, and Music Kingdom, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8
Gary Clark, Jr. with The White Bombs with White Lights featuring Anum Rae, Great American Music Hall, 8:30 p.m., $15
Klassic Grumble with Salt Bombs with Space Waves, Pinnacle Tavern, 8 p.m. $6
Vessel with Naked Fiction with Hungry, Hungry Ghost, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Afrobeat Grumble With Billy Magic: Phenomenahe, Marshall "Get Down" Band, Mutula and Kevin "The Wizard" Wong, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $8
Soul Train Revival with Zeb McCaffee with the Revival Band, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy Gumbo with la tribale Latin, Balkan, Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

Raphael Saadiq opens for Lenny Kravitz at Oakland's Fox Theater on 2/14

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2/24
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DAVE HOLLAND
OVERTONE QUARTET
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

3/10
CHROMATIC GENIUS
TOOTS THIELEMANS
Herbst Theatre

3/17
ELLA, BILLIE & SARAH
CHRISETTE MICHELE
Paramount Theatre, Oakland

3/25
THE FUTURE OF FLAMENCO
VICENTE AMIGO
WITH VOCALS & DANCE
Herbst Theatre

4/6
FROM JUG BAND TO BIG BAND
DAN HICKS & THE HOT LICKS
Davies Symphony Hall

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JOHN ABERCROMBIE
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Saturday, March 3

JAMES "BLOOD" ULMER
Sunday, March 11

URI CAINE TRIO WITH JOHN HEBERT & BEN PEROWSKY
Sunday, March 18

LIZZ WRIGHT
MEKLIT HADERO
Friday, March 23

CHANO DOMÍNGUEZ
Friday, March 30

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Saturday, March 31

RAUL MIDÓN
Sunday, April 1, 7PM

SIERRA MAESTRA
Wednesday, April 4

TIN HAT WITH
CARLA KIHLSTEDT, MARK ORTON, BEN GOLDBERG & ROB REICH
Thursday, April 5

BRAZILIAN PHENOMENON
HERMETO PASCOAL
Saturday, April 7

MICHEL CAMILO TRIO
Saturday, April 14

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
Thursday, April 19

KATE McGARRY
Sunday, April 15

BILL FRISELL & BILL MORRISON
Saturday, April 21

CHARLES LLOYD NEW QUARTET
WITH MARIA FARANTOURI
Sunday, April 22

PACO DE LUCIA
Friday, April 27

ISRAELI JAZZFEST
THIRD WORLD LOVE, 3 COHENS
ELI DEGIBRI & KEVIN HAYS
GILAD HEKSELMAN TRIO
Saturday & Sunday, April 28–29

ROSANNE CASH
Saturday, May 5

SUPERGENEROUS
Saturday, May 12

JANE MONHEIT
Wednesday, May 16

TIA FULLER QUARTET
Thursday, May 17

BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO
Friday & Saturday, May 18–19
Sunday, May 20

KENNY BARRON & MULGREW MILLER
Saturday, May 26

GONZALO RUBALCABA
Saturday, June 9

TINARIWEN
Sunday, June 10

ANOTHER NIGHT IN TREME
WITH DR. JOHN & THE SOUL REBELS
Friday, June 15

SPECTRUM ROAD WITH
JACK BRUCE, VERNON REID, JOHN MEDESKI & CINDY BLACKMAN
Saturday, June 16

CHRISTIAN McBRIDE
Sunday, June 17

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Friday, June 22

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SAT 2/11
MILO GREENE
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TUE 2/14
KACEY JOHANSING

FRI 2/17
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THU 2/9
SELECTOR: DJ DELON
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FRI 2/10
SWOOP UNIT
8:00 Swoop Unit is one of the hardest working, greasy-pocketed groove laureles funky soul jazz machines playing in the SF! Boasting an all-star veteran cast of players, Swoop Unit members have all been instrumentally active in the Bay Area's Funk, Soul, and Jazz scenes for the past 15-20 years
www.swoopunit.com

SAT 2/11
EXPANDABLE TRIO
8:00 Formed in 2009 by guitarist Erik Lindquist, 7 string bassist Edo Castro, and drummer Alex Aspinall Expandable Trio play cool smoky modern jazz and tunes riffs focusing on original compositions and improvisation. "We play 99% all original music with a few stray standards" says Castro. "You can say we're off the beaten path. Let's just say you won't hear us play any diluted version of "Take The A Train" or "The Girl with Emphysema."
www.expandabletrio.com

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

THU 2/9 9:00 pm $10 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
FRI 2/10 8:00 pm $13 $11 students — EAST COAST SWING STOMPY JONES 8 pm Swing dance lesson
SAT 2/11 9:30 pm $13 — REGGAE ~ LOVERS ROCK PARTY RUSTY ZINN CREATION
SUN 2/12 3:00 pm — "SOGGY SUNDAYS" KIDS' SERIES RUDE DOG DUO featuring members of the Sippy Cups
SUN 2/12 6:30 pm $5 — OPEN MIC SONGWRITERS' OPEN MIC featuring Owen Roberts
TUE 2/14 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN ZYDECO GATOR BEAT 8 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson
WED 2/15 9:00 pm $10 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
THU 2/16 7:30 pm $15 — BAROQUE ENSEMBLE MUSICA PACIFICA Spirited folk & chamber music of the British Isles
FRI 2/17 8:30 pm $13 $11 students — CARNIVAL CELEBRATION OUR BOYS STEEL PAN ORCHESTRA CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS
SAT 2/18 8:00 pm $15 $12 students — S.F. TAMBURITZA FESTIVAL MOMCI JERRY GRCEVICH ORCHESTRA 8 pm Kolo dance lesson

BERKELEY'S HOME FOR WORLD MUSIC AND DANCE SINCE 1973
1317 San Pablo (at Gilman) (510)525-5054
Calendar info, online tickets: Ashkenaz.com
ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 9

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and Mr. Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $3 ... free w/ valid ID

Club Fever w/ Secret Dred Dolan spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

Deton Club w/ DJs Rod Karla & Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

Delicious Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free

DJ Adam spinning eclectic ear candy. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Aware The Layover, 6 p.m., free

DJ Union Spider, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night The spinning Tuesdaze pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Trick spinning lounge. Club Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Mo Jolt w/ DJs Fine Climb & Band Posta. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Jungle Boogie w/ DJs Poison Kool Kyle, and Uncle Joe. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus dance lessons. Vernie's Bar & Grill, 8 p.m., $10

Sers Steel w/ DJ M.J.M. The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Tasty ladies night w/ DJ Mo eclectic spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15

Yoruba Dance Grooves spinning DJs Carlos Icaza and Cecil. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., free

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Damon Jules, Dangerous Dan, & Melting Gal spin '80s & new wave. Cat Club, 9 p.m., free before 9:30 p.m., $6

Afrolicious w/ The Baby Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro-beat-samba-funk. Elbo Room, 10 p.m., $6

Bingo-holic by Rose 33 Pints Ale during Bingo. The Knockout, 7:30-10 p.m., free

Club Internationale Bollywood bangra, Dominican bachata, Cambodian rock, & more. The Knockout, 11 p.m., free

College Night DJs Harm and Matt Jones spin hip-hop, reggae, R&B & more. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free

Deep Roots DJ Wasabi & special guests spin funk, soul, house, & more. Tunnel Top, 10 p.m., free

DJ Darrok & Vagabonds spinning world music. Ellen's, 9 p.m., free

DJs Dorovan & Olivia spinning funky stuff & underground hip-hop. Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free

Jungle Parlor Mighty, 9 p.m., $15 w/ RSVP

NightLife Weekly event for guests with cocktails, craft fairs, workshops, science exhibits, and rotating musical guests. This week's theme is Java Lab... w/ Geoffrey O'Connor and Miles... the ... California Academy of Sciences, 6-10 p.m., $12

Pacific Standard Time featuring DJ Layth, Aziae All Day & Rosa Gomez, Eve Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Represent w/ Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, house, & breaks. Icon Ultra Lounge, 10 p.m., $5

Solid Thursdays spinning DJ Daddy Rolo, guests. Cafe Du Nord, 9 p.m., $5

Tropicana Night DJ ... Sr Saenz and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue. Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 10

EAST BAY

Bad Jolt w/ DJs Eddy Andie, and His Friends spinning fast raps and slow jams. The Boxwood Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5

"Deejays, Dance & Dancing" DJ Habit & special guests spinning bass-heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning Tuesdaze pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

Doublespace and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Studio Groove, 7:30-11:30 p.m., free

Evolve Soul Fridays featuring DJ Soul Fusion. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Friday Night Salsa w/ Salsa DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $10

Friday Nite Salsa w/ DJ Sergio R. Foxes, 10 p.m., $6

Happy Outon w/ DJ Golden Grove spinning punk, rock, indie & noise rock. The Missouri Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Hip-Hop Union Music w/ Union DJs. Club 1220, 9 p.m., $8

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Calzona spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & house. Union and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15

Mandala weekly in-house DJ series. Amoeba Music, 7:30 p.m., free

Mighty Irie DJs Rootikal Irie (Bob & Smoke-One spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $10

Old-School hip-hop and funk. Radio, 9 p.m., free

Oldies Night w/ DJ Electro spinning reggae, salsa, oldies, R&B, house. Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Ortiont Guaranteed fresh '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Sultry Special DJ Loch & Fat Bob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $8

Tastify w/ DJ Jared Prayers spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free

World Pass Fridays spinning DJ Tropic, spinning global fun, soca, moombah, salsa, merengue, dancehall, reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Bandcamp 7th Anniversary w/ JBAD, Mighty, 10 p.m., $10-$20

Bass Time Continuum Club Six, 9 p.m., $5, free before 10 p.m.

DJ Danny Bonzai spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, indie, & pop. Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free

DJ Lebowitz spin piano. Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., free

Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more. Element Lounge, 9 p.m., $5

Flashback Friday DJs Shorty Fire, Bauer & MCF & Chicken Scratch spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $10 after

Fo' Shol Fridays Mr. Leisure & Kung Fu Chest spin rare grooves, soul, hip-hop, funk, & international flavors, plus live hip-hop w/ Raw Deluxe. Dobbers Art Bar, 9 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.

Fridays at the Fruit Stand w/ DJs Carmen & Miranda spinning soul, funk, & world. The Fruit Stand, 9 p.m., free

Gianthollow spinning DJs, the Earthy, 11 p.m., $15, free before midnight

Hot Pants w/ DJs Chelsea Starr, Melissa, Wax Chef, & special guest spinning booty classics, hip-hop, & R&B. Cat Club, 9 p.m., $5

Lance Jones w/ DJ Tom Thump and Guests. Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $6

Mezclado weekly in-house DJ ... Amoeba Music, 6:30 p.m., free

Mortified Doomed Valentines ... FNA Lounge, 8 p.m., $15-$20

Night of the Rebels w/ DJs Franc, Ronie & Lord Cin spinning nasty rock 'n' roll. The Knockout, 10 p.m., $3

Dimensional Science featuring DJs Clare, Sabbath & Jaiaka spinning electronic and world music, plus rocking the jam. Club Six, 10 p.m., $10

Paris Dubai Boom Bass DJs Segoi and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Sunnyon, 9 p.m., $5

Sensitive Thug featuring DJ Sonic, Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist, Club Six, 10 p.m., $5

Strictly Boom spinning VDJ's spinning music videos from every genre. 111 Dolores Street Gallery, $5-$10

VIA Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop. Yoshi's, 9 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 11

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hoodstyle DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Foxes, 10 p.m., free

Angel Magik DJs Fox, Jah Kno, Hitter Young Fresh & guests spin hip-hop, reggae, & dancehall. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $15

The Block Yard hosted by Susan Kennedy. Moxes Music, 2 p.m., free

Club Impulse White Horse Inn, 10 p.m., $5

Club Maxwell's w/ Jerry Ross & Soul Picture spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

Club Rhythm w/ DJ Pure and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $6 before 11 p.m.

Deeday Lady Ryan hosts Volare, 9 p.m., free

PICK

Slap City Pre-Valentine's Day Jump Off Launch Party

Lest you quest on the idea of Oakland hip-hop duo Roll Milli ... headlining a Valentine's dance, just remember that the "Roll" part of the name wasn't put there by accident. Rappers Jay Cash and James Loane may cite Drake and Wu-Tang Clan as influences, but they're also into pink, candy-coated, ... music, and it's not unusual to hear TLC blasting from the stereo speakers of their home studio. They'll headline a new hip-hop dance night in Oakland, featuring DJs from the relatively young warehouse crew Trill Team 6, which is known for spinning tracks that fall right on the margins of what's popular. In their inaugural edition of Slap City, DJs Bobby Peru, Handsome Nets, and Pony Loan promise a fine mélange of ... bass, doused, dragged, drugged, and otherwise ... rap music — and hopefully a few tunes to make babies to, given the theme. They'll convene at 9OM Bar (2925 16th St., San Francisco) on Monday, Feb. 13, 9 p.m., $5. 9OMBar.com — *Rachel Swan*

D&D

"Deejays, Drinks & Dancing" DJ Hakk & special guests spinning bass heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. free

The Deeper Side of Soul La Estrellita Cafe, 9 p.m. free

"The Deeper Side of Soul" soulful house music w/ DJs Dozen, Carl and Mike Sol, plus live art and video projections. La Estrellita Cafe, 9:30 p.m. free

Hi Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind blowing rock & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Downtempo And Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 p.m. free

A Groove & Sexy Affair w/ DJs spinning reggae, soca, & hip-hop. [illegible] Club, 9 p.m. $15

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible]. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $5

Bomba Saturdays Club 1220, 9 p.m. $6

La Soul Loca Latin night w/ DJs spinning salsa, merengue, & bachata plus hot go-go dancers. Club 21, 9 p.m. $10-$15

Boogie Alla Deeper DJ Dream & guests host genre-surfing extravaganza. Kingman's Luck Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Shed Red: Doomed Downtime Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. $15-$20

Bomba La Lisa Little Night DJ [illegible] spins salsa, merengue, cumbia, bachata, reggaeton, reggae en espanol & and more. Club Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Pop Winning 101 DJs spin pop hits from The Stooges to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Soul Knockout w/ DJs Hypnotronics & Hot Celo spinning soul, funk, & boogie. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Deeper Groove DJs Drake & Hector spin old-school hip-hop, heavy soul classics, club bangers, & more. Oasis 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Banger!!! DJs from the Doomed Fiddle, Rosebank, & the Ranger spin classic party anthems. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m. $10

Warm-Up w/ DJ Field Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Majestic Lounge, 9:30 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Bomba SF DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $8 before 10 p.m. $15

Club Dolores w/ DJ Shug spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits. [illegible], 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. with [illegible]

Club Gossip new wave video night w/ DJ Morning Girl, [illegible], & special guest. Cat Club, 9:30 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $7

Cockblock [illegible] Natalie Nuxx and [illegible]. Rickshaw Stop, 10 p.m. $5-$10

Cockblock Queer dance party w/ DJ Nuxx and Downlow spinning 80s, 90s, hip-hop, dance-pop, & soul. Rickshaw Stop, 11 p.m. $8

DJ Dave Orr Sang [illegible], 9 p.m., free

El Superritmo! w/ Jack Kool Kyle & Roger Mas spinning cumbia, reggaeton, salsa, sonidero, and world dance-pop. Make-Out Room, 10 p.m. $5

Fireman Saturdays w/ DJ Cake Harrell spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. Soul Lounge, 9 p.m. $5

Paris Deme Bomba Deme DJs Sugal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m. $5

Pura [illegible] Opening Party featuring DJs Sexy B, Freddie Edde & [illegible], DJ & more spinning salsa, merengue, bachata, reggae, cumbia, & Latin top 40. $15 Fulsom Nightclub, 10 p.m.

Reggae Soul w/ [illegible] Mendez, Phil Mezquic & guests. The EndUp, 10 p.m., $15 ladies free before 11 p.m.

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, and club hits. The Cellar, 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $10 after

Tormenta Tropical with DJ Oro, Awesome Tapes From Africa, and resident DJs Shawn Reynaldo & Oro11. Elbo Room, 10 p.m. $5-$10

Soul Vibe Vent DJs spin reggae, hip-hop, electro, mash-ups, & party smashers. Club [illegible], 9 p.m. $20 before 11 p.m. $15

SUNDAY 12

EAST BAY

DJ Daddy Fatgroove Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

King of Kings DJ Smoke One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. $10

Major w/ DJ Money spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school. Sweet Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance. Shoes optional. Contemporary dance [illegible]. Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., donations accepted

The Soul-Full Flow DJ Adil Omi & guests spin soulful grooves. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 p.m. free

Town Lost & Essential [illegible] party at the [illegible] featuring DJs Mike Dee, Black [illegible] and special guests. Hibiscus, 5-11 p.m., free before 6:30 pm

Steel Roo & Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots reggae. The Honey Tony Club, 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dim Doomed w/ DJs Sep, J. Boogie, and Vinnie Esparza. Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $8

Holding Firm DJ Sheresse & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF, 9 p.m. free before 10:30 pm, $3

Dance Sundays w/ rotating live before salsa dance lesson. El Rio, 3 p.m. $8

Deeper Sunday w/ DJ Tim, Chuck Love, Jet, Andy Caldwell, [illegible], Frank Richards, Keith Evans, [illegible] Soul Amos, & Yon. Kelly's Mission Rock, 12-10 p.m. $10-$20

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

MONDAY 13

EAST BAY

Spinning Soul featuring DJs [illegible] Hector. The New Parish, 10 p.m. $5

Three-Day Weekend DJ Mossum Slim spinning hip-hop, R&B, & local favorites. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge. Special 70s & [illegible] 10s music. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Deeper Hang Out? w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft rock, oldies, & soul. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ Kaze spinning [illegible] soul, rare grooves, & down-tempo. Swig Bar, 5 p.m. free

Freaks w/ rotating live before resident DJ Bibo [illegible], & more. The Knockout, 10 p.m. free

Motown classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, Brazilian, Afrobeat, & more. Little Baobab, 10 p.m. $3

Dance Lesson w/ DJ Orlando, plus lessons. Cafe Cocomo, 7:30 p.m. $5 lessons $10

Oven Rock Sideshow with DJ Tragic & the Dystopia of Deeper Sean and Zaid. [illegible] Love Songs From The Hated and Rotund [illegible] at 7 p.m. DJ Hemlock Tavern, 10 p.m. free

Radical Vinyl w/ DJ Jonny [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl. El Rio, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $3

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr Lucky & Pounda spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae. Skylark, 9:30 p.m. free

Spliff Sessions w/ DJs [illegible] Kung Fu Dino & C-Moore spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, boogie, jazz, Latin and Balearic. Tunnel Top, 10 p.m., and

TUESDAY 14

EAST BAY

Spinning Music Night plus line dancing. Club 1220, 9 p.m. free

DJ Dean Money spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, & more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Wasty spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Escape college night featuring DJ Speedy & DJ Kazy. Club 21, 9 p.m. free

Joe Quinn Spins Vinyl Bison Brewery, 6 p.m. free

Soul Funk DJs Jazz & Sarg spinning reggae & world beats. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dread Up Jah [illegible] DJs [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, & [illegible]. Free before 11 p.m. Milk, 10 p.m. $5

Afrojamin & Soul spinning funked-up beats, underground hip-hop, & Afro grooves. Swig Bar, 9 p.m. free

Phonic Rush 'A' Tram w/ DJs Dojo Gonzalez & Dave plus MC Dub. Underground SF, 9 p.m. $1

The Dead [illegible] Feature rotating live bands, plus DJ Whatsisface & Pete spinning punk rock at the Argus Lounge. The Knockout, 10 p.m. $5

Weekend w/ DJs Chicken Scratch, Sooty Fox, Derrick D, MCD & guests spinning 80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 15

EAST BAY

Hump Day w/ DJs Jet & [illegible] Reggae of [illegible]. The Doomed Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jet Set w/ DJ Saxton and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Spins Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m., $5-$10

Knuckle Sandwich w/ DJ Fee Bag. The Layover, 9 p.m. free

Steel Night featuring Last Angry Money spinning [illegible] vinyl, and more. Mexicali Saloon, 10 p.m. free

Mouth Off open-mic poetry followed by DJ music. AIR Lounge, 8-11 p.m.

Persuasion Iron cowboy night w/ host Violeta, lessons and bar, 8 p.m. $6-$15

Before Push indie, new wave, & Brandio rock w/ DJ Isaac Owen Money. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ. T-[illegible], 10 p.m. free

Soul Monster w/ DJ Fillmo, Owen Dumbo, 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

1002 Nights DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins North African & Middle Eastern grooves. Underground SF, 9 p.m. $5

1964 Weekly mod & psych Dance night. Edinburgh Castle, 9 p.m. free

Grove DJ [illegible] Cue, Erick Santero, & Manuela spin Soul, Latin, Afrobeat, & more. Ruby, 9 p.m. free

DJ Deeper spinning chilled-out beats, new-school soul, underground hip-hop & stripped-down Afro-beats. Swig Bar, 9 p.m. free

Mixtape Wednesday DJs Strategy, Jowi, & [illegible] spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk & soul. Skylark, 10 p.m. $5

Satellite w/ rotating Deeper DJs, Aud. & [illegible] 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $1

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FRI 2/10 8:30PM $8-10 POMEGRANATE SUPER NATURAL BE BRAVE BOLD ROBOT
SAT 2/11 8:30PM $7-10 THE BANG KARINA DENIKE THE PACESETTERS
SUN 2/12 3PM $5 ALL AGES THE BRAZILIAN/INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROJECT feat. SARAVA ZAMBA AND TED PAZ
THU 2/16 8PM $8-10 THE BERKELEY BALKAN BACCHANAL 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH INSPECTOR GADJE RADIO ISTANBUL (Turkish Music)
FRI 2/17 8:30PM $10-15 SFBOT! THE SAN FRANCISCO BLUEGRASS & OLD-TIME FESTIVAL
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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Jenny Spot Cafe** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

Jenny Spot Cafe
2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 467323

The following individual is doing business as [illegible] San Pablo Ave [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE # 461026-11

The following [illegible] Fremont, CA [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE # 461632

[illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 460779-263

The following individual is doing business as **State Art and Design; State Contemporary; State Gallery; State [illegible]** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

State Art and Design; State Contemporary; State Gallery; State Consulting
2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 460970

The following individual is doing business as **Save Our** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

1/25, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Advancing the Fictitious** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

Advancing the Fictitious
1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] & Statement Consulting Services LLC** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

Proposed Business Name Statement File # 460837

[illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 460878

The following individual is doing business as **Sugar Queen Treats** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

Sugar Queen Treats
1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Reaching Higher Ground** [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]

Reaching Higher Ground
2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 461090

[illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Proposed Business Name Statement File # 460752

[illegible] Albany, CA [illegible]

2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Oakland Art Murmur, Inc.** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

Oakland Art Murmur, Inc.
2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 1 59022

[illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: HG12612144

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11600364

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible]

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12614930

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible]

NOTICE OF HEARING

[illegible]

2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **MyProperties** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

MyProperties
1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8/2012

Request to Administer Estate of

MARVIN WILLIAM ROSENZWEIG [illegible]

CASE NO. [illegible]

[illegible]

2/8, 2/15, 2/22/2012

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jiffyintermodshots [illegible]

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-0125451 Title Order No. 11-0105629 Investor/Insurer No. 1701777513 APN No. 049-1520-044 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/02/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by PENNY J DELCENIO, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, dated 08/02/2006 and recorded 8/10/2006, as Instrument No. 2006305973, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 03/08/2012 at 9:00AM, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 9461, 3rd Floor Lodge and Banquet Room at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8 CAPTAIN DRIVE UNIT E355, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $269,078.98. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 01/28/2012 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# FNMA4177998 02/08/2012, 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012

SAVAGE LOVE

HOTEL TRYSTS AND CATHOLIC GUILT

Plus coming out with Grindr and making out with regrets

By Dan Savage

I'm a 2[illegible]-year-old gay male. My friend "Marcelo" is friends with "Chad." Everyone who meets Chad assumes he's gay. Never had a girlfriend, a dance major, dyes his hair blond/green/purple, got up at 4 a.m. to watch Kate marry William — I could go on. Over four years at college, this situation has gone from funny to sad as we realize he may never come out and could pull a Marcus Bachmann and live a miserable life with a miserable wife. Last night, Marcelo was on Grindr and got a message from a guy who turned out to be Chad! Chad sent a face pic. Marcelo sent a faceless one back, they chatted. It turns out that Chad is experienced enough to know his homosex likes and dislikes and carry on a detailed conversation about them with a guy on Grindr. Should we say something to Chad? Would letting him know he's been outed be the best course of action? Should we have a gayvention?

Closet Case Confusion

Chad hasn't "been outed," CCC, Chad outed himself!

Before Al Gore invented the Internet and ruined everything for everyone, a college-age closet case had to work up the nerve to visit the campus gay bar if he wanted some dick. The closet case knew he was running a risk by showing his face in the campus gay bar — even the gay bar three towns over — but going to the bar was the only way to get some dick. So the pre-Grindr college-age closet case would slip into a gay bar and, after pounding shots in a wildly successful effort to self-medicate against his inhibitions, wind up shirtless on the dance floor making out with some random dude.

There was a code of conduct for friends of closet cases when I was in college — which was, I'm sorry to say, just a couple of years before Grindr came along (cough, cough) — and a section that dealt with dance-floor make-out sessions: If you saw a guy who told you he was straight in class on Friday morning making out with some random dude on the dance floor of the campus gay bar on Friday night (or in the gay bar three towns over), you had a right — no, you had a responsibility — to tap him on the shoulder, smile, and say, "Welcome out, dude."

What Chad is doing on Grindr — sending out face pics, chatting about his homosex preferences — is the Grindr-era equivalent of making out with a random dude on the dance floor of a campus gay bar. What Marcelo did was the Grindr-era equivalent of ducking behind a post. And now Marcelo has a right — no, a responsibility — to tap Chad on the shoulder and, without any sense of malice or triumph, say, "Welcome out, Chad."

I'm an eighteen-year-old male who is weird in the way of a bit of crossdressing and pegging. My girlfriend endorses these interests, and I love her for that. Recently, a hot 22-year-old gay guy told me he was attracted. I tried to tell him I was in a relationship, but we kissed. It sucked. His stubble hurt, he used too much tongue, and I got nothing out of it. Do I tell my girlfriend? I worry that telling will make her worry, and the worry will cause distrust, and that distrust will ruin a great three-year run.

Now Over Transient Bisexual Interests

First, after reading your letter, NOTBI, I was left wondering what would've gone down (you perhaps?) if the gay dude you made out with — after you tried so very, very hard to tell him you were in a relationship — didn't have a rough beard and use too much tongue.

Second, a girlfriend who endorses your interest in crossdressing and pegging is a girlfriend who might have endorsed your interest in a boy-on-boy make-out session. If you'd had the decency to ask for her permission, NOTBI, you wouldn't now be in the position of having to ask for her forgiveness.

Third, I think you should discuss this with your girlfriend, but I don't think you must. You're eighteen, you're not married, you (briefly) kissed a boy, and you didn't like it. If you think coming clean would destroy your relationship and you're sure it's never going to happen again, stuff this one up your memory hole.

I (middle-aged, married, straight guy) recently attended a boring business conference where I ran into an old friend (middle-aged married straight guy). He came to my room for a moment, noticed a camera on a small tripod on the desk, and asked what I was shooting. Emboldened by a few beers, I told him about my hotel room routine: shoot myself naked and masturbating, then upload pics to an amateur exhibitionist website. Since I had shared my little secret, he shared his: He gets naked in hotel rooms and masturbates while spanking himself with his belt. You can see where this is going. I whacked his ass while he took photos of me. There was no sucking or fucking — no physical contact at all — but his Catholic guilt came out afterward and he started going on about how he had just had gay sex and cheated on his wife. To me it was masturbation with a few toys (camera, belt, and okay, person). So here's the question: Did we have gay sex and cheat on our wives? Or was this just a wank with a few toys?

Spank And Wank

Sounds pretty gay to me. I mean, if a woman offered to help me out with my solo hotel room routine — mostly blogging and watching MSNBC, I'm sad to report — I'd take a pass, as that scene would be entirely too straight for me to get aroused.

Now, it's possible that your enjoyment of exhibitionism is so pure that the gender of the person or persons involved is irrelevant. That's not the case with my kinks, SAW, nor does it appear to be the case with your new spank buddy. And considering your friend's kink (punishment) and his faith (Catholic), I'm thinking the odds that your buddy has a few forbidden desires — perhaps gay ones — that led to his erotic obsession with being punished seem... uh, I dunno... kinda high. It may not have been gay for you, but it was gay for him.

As for whether what went down in that hotel room constitutes cheating, SAW, you're asking the wrong person. Show your wife the pictures and ask her. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

mail@savagelove.net

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-0117999 Title Order No. 11-0098194 Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1528-253 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/23/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by CHRISTOPHER L. FOLEY, AN UNMARRIED MAN, dated 11/23/2005 and recorded 12/6/2005, as Instrument No. 2005518909, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 02/17/2012 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6 ADMIRAL DRIVE A290, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $459,611.64. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 01/18/2012 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible] 01/25/2012, 02/01/2012, 02/08/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 246046CA Loan No. 5304200074 Title Order No. 845820 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11-14-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 02-29-2012 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 12-01-2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006442216, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: LATEEFAH SIMON, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. (MERS), SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR LENDER, SCME MORTGAGE BANKERS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, IT'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED 1.18% INTEREST AS A TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO LOT 2, PARCEL MAP 8005, FILED MARCH 26, 2003, MAP BOOK 270, PAGES 44-45, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS, AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED OCTOBER 8, 2004 AS SERIES NO. [illegible] ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS, DESIGNATED ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF ANDANTE, A CONDOMINIUM PROJECT RECORDED DECEMBER 29, 2004, SERIES NO. 2004569807, OFFICIAL RECORDS, AS FOLLOWS: BUILDING 1: UNITS 201 THROUGH 206, UNITS 301 THROUGH 306 AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 406. BUILDING 2: UNITS 201 THROUGH 208, UNITS 301 THROUGH 308 AND 401 THROUGH 408. BUILDING 3: UNITS 101 THROUGH 107, UNITS 201 THROUGH 207, UNITS 301 THROUGH 307, AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 407. BUILDING 4: UNITS 101 THROUGH 108, UNITS 201 THROUGH 208, UNITS 301 THROUGH 308 AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 408. B) ALL OF THE COMMERCIAL UNITS DESIGNATED ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE AS FOLLOWS: [illegible] INCLUSIVE. C) THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE ALL OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREAS (R1, R2, R3), RESIDENTIAL HANDICAP PARKING (P), STORAGE AREAS (S202, S203, S204, ETC) AND DECKS (D201, D202, D203, ETC.) AS SHOWN ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE. PARCEL TWO: UNIT 306 IN BUILDING 2, AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREA R-40C AND R-80C, DECK D-306 IN BUILDING 2 AND STORAGE S-306 IN BUILDING 2 AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, USE AND ENJOYMENT OVER THAT PORTION OF THE COMMON AREA OF LOT 2, PM 8005, AS SET FORTH IN THE CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $479,172.26 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1121 40TH STREET #2306 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1548-012-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 02-03-2012 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee CASEY KEALOHA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com ASAP# [illegible] 02/08/2012, 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012

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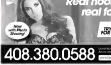
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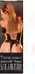
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible]6038 Title Order No. 11-0096682 Investor/Insurer No. 169478572 APN No. 049-1528-489 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/15/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by SAMIR SNAGIC AND ELVIRA SNAGIC, dated 04/15/2004 and recorded 4/23/2004, as Instrument No. 2004[illegible]8829, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 02/21/2012 at 9:00AM, Spanish Ranch Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr. Oakland, CA 946[illegible] 2nd Floor Lodge and Banquet Room at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4 ADMIRAL DRIVE #F376, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $229,940.98. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 01/12/2012 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: - Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# FNMA4166356 01/25/2012, 02/01/2012, 02/08/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-0116845 Title Order No. 11-0097218 Investor/Insurer No. 110009679 APN No. 049-1083-001 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/29/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by HARBIR BAL, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE & SEPARATE PROPERTY, dated 07/29/2005 and recorded 8/23/2005, as Instrument No. 2005360320, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 02/22/2012 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4301 ADELINE STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA, 946083305. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $469,097.13. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 01/19/2012 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: - Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 4179115 01/25/2012, 02/01/2012, 02/08/2012

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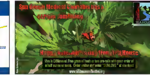

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